DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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PROUD FLAG

Celebrating Black Country Day

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IN THE PINK

Huge turnout for cancer charity race

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CHANCELLOR'S HOSPITAL VOW

CHANCELLOR George Osborne has pledged investment in Rowley Regis Hospital despite also giving the green light to a £353 million 'super hospital' for the Black Country.

Rowley Regis Hospital will see its role in providing non-acute community care expanded.

By Daniel Wainwright

The announcement came as the Chancellor visited Rowley Regis Hospital, part of Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

Meanwhile, the 670-bed acute Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Grove Lane, Smethwick, has been on the cards for a decade.

It has been hit by delays amid a shake-up of the controversial private finance initiative, which funds new buildings but mounts up debts over many years.

Treasury

The hospital is due to take up 16 acres on Grove Lane but a further 31 acres of land between Grove Lane, Cranford Street, Heath Street and Dugdale Street is to be transformed and filled with business and housing schemes.

On Monday it was announced that the Treasury is providing £100m to the scheme, with the rest raised from private investment.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris wrote to the Chancellor in 2012 asking for the Treasury to back the new hospital.

Mr Osborne said: "This ambitious package will ensure that patients across the West Midlands continue to benefit from access to world-class acute treatment and cutting-edge facilities.

"It is because of the difficult decisions we have taken as a Government that we have been able to protect healthcare spending, and announce new facilities.

"The hospital is going to be a fantastic addition to the community and will meet needs for decades to come."

The Chancellor said the announcement showed a dramatic turnaround in the fortunes of Rowley Regis Hospital, which had been under threat but will now see its role in providing community care increased.

Mr Osborne continued: "We will invest in hospitals like Rowley Regis here. This is proof that we are committed to the NHS and that we have a long-term economic plan which makes investment like this possible. Four years ago this hospital was facing the closure of its wards. Now we have wards open and staff are really excited about the future."

Construction of the new hospital is expected to start in 2016 and be completed by 2018-19.

Richard Samuda, Chairman of Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals said: "The Chancellor's announcement at Rowley Regis Hospital reinforces our strategy of local care for long term conditions and a single specialist acute centre at the Midland Met."

Daisy-Mae Little is a huge internet hit

Daisy-Mae Little and her doting dad Wayne, a Brierley Hill firefighter, with the snap that became an internet sensation

IT'S a heart warming picture of a daddy cuddling up to his baby daughter.

This snapshot of Daisy-Mae Little and doting father Wayne has become an internet sensation.

More than 2,500 people have liked the picture, while an incredible 15,000 now follow Daisy-Mae's exploits on her Facebook page.

Wayne updates the page regularly with pictures and messages.

His daughter weighed just 1lb 13 oz when she was born and had to receive specialist neo-natal care.

More than half a year later and she is going from strength to strength.

Her 42-year-old firefighter father from Brierley Hill, said he initially kept the Facebook diary as a way of updating family and friends.

He said: "Daisy-Mae finally made it to the top of her mountain and I'm so proud of her.

Coping

"My way of coping was to write a diary to her. A diary from your daddy to the girl who couldn't wait. But then I realised how concerned our family and friends were, so I began writing one on Facebook too, so everyone could see how she was doing.

"We now had people from all over the world sending their thoughts and prayers which helped us to stay positive. I don't know how we would've coped without them. We've even been sent presents from all over the UK and from people around the world including Canada and Australia.

"Midwives, professors and students are now using Daisy-Mae's journey to help educate other women and mothers about premature babies."

His blog, coupled with a diary, is being turned into a book, due for release on September 13 to coincide with Daisy-Mae's christening.

Surfacing work will cause road disruption

DRIVERS will face diversions and disruption as road works and closures start on a busy high street in the Black Country.

Resurfacing work on Quarry bank High Street will begin at the end of this month and will last for two weeks.

Work on the A4100 will take place between the roundabout at Park Road and the Dudley borough boundary at Cradley Forge and will include the installation of a new 20mph zone in the vicinity of Quarry Bank Primary School.

Busiest

It will begin on July 28 and motorists travelling towards Merry Hill and Brierley Hill will face disruption as the road will be closed on weekdays between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

The road will be kept open to traffic coming from Merry Hill and Brierley Hill heading towards Cradley.

A full overnight closure is also planned for August 1 when a section of the road, from the roundabout at Park Road to Queen Street, will be laid overnight.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "It is one of the busiest roads in the borough but it needs resurfacing and the disruption will be worth it in the end."

Temporary crime role

A TEMPORARY police and crime commissioner for the West Midlands has been appointed in the wake of the death of Bob Jones, amid criticism of a by-election being tabled in just over a month.

Labour's Yvonne Mosquito, deputy PCC, was formally appointed to take the reins until a by-election on August 21 but she will not take the role permanently as Labour 's candidate for the role is former Solihull councillor and Plymouth MP David Jamieson.

Fun on a beach all summer at Himley

THE Black Country may be miles from the nearest seafront but for children in Dudley the beach is coming to them this summer.

Himley Hall and Park will be creating a slice of the seaside in landlocked Dudley with 120 tonnes of sand where families can bring along their bucket and spade.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "The Himley Beach has been a favourite attraction at our under-5s' fun day for several years.

Treat

"We thought it would be a special treat for local children and families if we kept the beach throughout the summer, all they have to do is bring their bucket and spade for a lovely fun day out."

Families can also enjoy refreshments at the Oak Tea Room which is open most Sundays from 2pm to 4.30pm.

There will be free band concerts throughout the summer, including the Black Country Ukelele Players this Sunday and Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass band performing on August 3. Both events are free and take place from 2.30pm.

Fire call outs despite strike

THERE were two call outs for firefighters in Dudley during their nationwide strike on Monday.

Members of the Fire Brigades Union in the region staged two walk outs during which time there were a total of 13 incidents across the West Midlands Fire Service area.

Non-striking staff were called to a road accident in Cinder Road, Lower Gornal, just after 6am and a car fire in Garratt Street, Brierley Hill, just before 7am.

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Drug dealer, 64, is back in prison

A DRUG dealer who tried to sell over six kilos of cannabis to get out of debt has been locked up for 16 months.

Police found £34,500 worth of skunk and cannabis resin at the home of 64-year-old Robert Whitelaw, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The haul was discovered in carrier bags and cling film pouches along with a small amount of cocaine for personal use, revealed Miss Sharonjit Bahia.

Officers also recovered £15,000 cash at the address in Mill Street, Brierley Hill during the raid a year ago.

Miss Bahia said: "The defendant escorted the officers executing the search warrant to where the cannabis and cocaine were stored."

Whitelaw had seven previous convictions, several for drug dealing, including one for which he was jailed for six years. He had also been locked up for two years in France for importing and possessing drugs in 1995.

Mr John Evans, defending, said: "He is a man with a significant number of health problems but accepts that he intended to sell the drugs in bulk for a profit."

Whitelaw pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis with intent to supply and possession of cocaine. He was sent to prison by Judge Robin Onions who told him: "You ran into financial difficulties last year and saw this supply of cannabis as a way of solving them. You were motivated purely by financial gain."

A Proceeds of Crime case is likely to be started against Whitelaw.

Free travel passes for jobseekers in £3m deal

JOBSEEKERS will get free travel passes as part of a £3 million transport deal for the Black Country.

It also hoped the funding will create 6,000 new cyclists, add an extra 5.5 million trips on public transport each year and cut car journeys by 22.9 million kilometres a year.

The £3,057,000 government funding will be used by transport authority Centro and Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton councils.

Schemes will include free travel passes and cycling support for jobseekers, travel advice for school leavers starting education, training or new jobs, travel support for students and staff at secondary schools, colleges and universities, as well as bespoke travel support for households and businesses.

There will also be free adult cycle training and bus and HGV driver training focussed on vulnerable road users including cyclists. The initiatives start next year.

The project involves the creation of new cycle routes, upgrades to traffic junctions and free travel advice for residents.

Councillor Judith Rowley, Centro's sustainable transport guru, said: "This new funding will allow us to continue these schemes which reduce the congestion costing our region more than £2 billion a year, as well as making sure our residents are well connected to jobs, education and training."

The schemes are the result of close collaboration between Centro, the four Black Country councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which includes local business people and politicians and is tasked with drawing up initiatives that can bring about economic growth and job creation.

Predatory paedophile sent to jail

A PREDATORY paedophile from Dudley who sexually abused two girls has been jailed for four-and-a-half years.

Wayne Ault denied three counts of sexual activity with a child under 13 and three charges of causing a child to watch images of sexual activity. He was found guilty of all six charges following a three-day trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The 36-year-old, of Green Park Road, Kates Hill, was jailed after the girls reported his crimes.

Detective Constable Catherin Blagin said: "I would like to commend these young girls for the bravery they showed in speaking up.

"I hope this strength of character helps them to move forward and gives other young victims the confidence to report such offences to us, knowing they will be taken seriously by the police.

"Ault is a predatory offender who took advantage of his position of trust to abuse his victims. Dudley is a safer place with him in prison and on his release, he will be on the sex offenders register for life."

Bishop backs credit union

The bishop with finance boss Councillor Stuart Turner and credit unit assistant Natalie Poole

THE Bishop of Dudley has opened a Credit Union account as part of the Church's commitment to affordable finance.

The Rt Rev Graham Usher visited the Castle & Crystal Credit Union branch in New Street on July 7. The Bishop's visit follows a commitment by the Church of England to proactively support credit unions as an alternative affordable financial service.

Mr Usher, who was recently made bishop, said: "Credit Unions can provide a real alternative for people in need of affordable financial services, giving them somewhere to turn and helping them to make ends meet.

"As a diocese, we have already invested some of our Social Responsibility Fund money into the Castle & Crystal Union and I'm delighted to open a personal account. I hope that this will continue to raise the profile of credit unions and encourage more people to get involved."

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial co-operatives that provide an alternative to banks and other financial institutions. See www.castleandcrystal.co.uk or call 01384 815771.

People fled the scene of car crashes

FOUR people fled two cars after two crashes in the Black Country.

Staffordshire Police brought in the force helicopter to try and find three people who absconded from one of the cars in an accident near Sedgley.

Two cars crashed in Wodehouse Lane, Gospel End, shortly after midnight, in the early hours of Monday, leaving both with significant damage.

A man inside one of the cars had to be cut free by crews from Dudley and Bilston fire stations. He was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

Three people in the second car left the scene before emergency services arrived.

Fire crews made the vehicles safe before helping with the clear up.

Meanwhile, a driver abandoned a car after it overturned and landed on a grass verge in another crash.

The Ford hatchback ended up on its roof in Hanover Road, Rowley Regis at about 8.30pm on Sunday

When fire crews arrived the driver was not there. Onlookers said they had fled the scene.

The road was blocked for about half an hour.

Bully backs Dreams walk

TEACHERS and students are encouraging walkers to put their best foot forward to raise money for charity.

The Coseley School is supporting Wolverhampton charity Promise Dreams 10-mile walk which takes place in September.

The charity makes dreams come true for terminally ill children.

Wolves legend Steve Bull, who is a patron of the charity, visited the school in Henne Drive to promote the event.

To sign up visit the website www.walkfordreams.co.uk

Golf for charity

A LEGAL firm based in Stourbridge raised £700 for the Midlands Air Ambulance. Wall James Chappell's annual charity golf day took place at Blackwell Golf Club in Bromsgrove. James Rousell, a partner, thanked those who supported the event.

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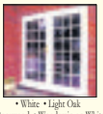
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Councillor backs call for resignations at school

PARENTS of children at a failing primary school in Coseley have called for the headteacher and governors to resign.

Hurst Hill Primary School was placed in special measures after an Ofsted report published on June 27 labelled the school inadequate.

But headteacher Mrs Caroline Dingle says a number of improvement measures have already been put in place.

The inspection took place in May just days after parents took their children out of class amid concerns that a pupil had a knife — rumours that proved to be unfounded.

Now members of Hurst Hill parents group are campaigning for Mrs Dingle and the management team to step down and those parents are being being backed by Coseley councillor Star Etheridge.

Councillor Etheridge has written to the Interim Directorate of Children's Services at Dudley Council to highlight parents' concerns and said: "It appears that due to the poor results from Ofsted that resignations of the said leadership team and the governors is the most appropriate first step. The children are the first and only consideration in this matter." Karl Stevens, Chairman of the parents group added: "We want resignations. The school is simply failing our children."

Mrs Dingle said: "We always strive for the very best educational standards for our pupils and recognise the opportunity to make improvements. A number of improvement measures have already been put in place, including partnership working with other schools, and we will continue to keep parents regularly informed as we make progress.

"We want to maintain a positive, learning environment for all of the children to the end of term, and welcome any comments from parents to us directly. Our pupils will continue to be at the heart of everything we do, and we will continue to work with the local authority, parents and governors to raise standards further."

More than 100 theft reports on railways

MORE than 110 thefts of passenger property were reported at railways in the Black Country and parts of Staffordshire over the past 18 months, new figures show.

A total of 112 thefts were reported to British Transport Police in 18 months.

Around 82 of these took place in 2013, with a further 32 in the first six months of this year.

They were reported on trains in what is known as the Wolverhampton sector, which has stations including Bloxwich, Tipton, Wolverhampton, Coseley, Hednesford and Stafford.

British Transport Police are currently running Operation Magnum in a bid to crackdown on the problem and to encourage people to keep their valuables safe.

It was launched last year following a 16 per cent rise in thefts at stations and on trains across Britain.

But police say the operation is already having an impact with theft figures on track to be lower this year.

Brian Price, spokesman for British Transport Police, said: "We take all incidents seriously. Thieves operating on the rail network should know that they will be caught and dealt with."

Police plea after death

A MOTORCYCLIST has died days after being seriously injured in a crash.

Ashley Sylvester was involved in a collision with a silver BMW on New Street at the junction with Manor Road in Wordsley on July 5.

The 20-year-old from Wordsley was taken to hospital but died four days later.

Sergeant Neil Higgins said: "A young man has tragically lost his life and we are trying to understand how that happened . Anyone who witnessed the collision and has not already spoken to police can contact 101."

A female first

A NEW chief prosecutor has been appointed for the West Midlands.

Grace Ononiwu OBE will take over from Harry Ireland, who has retired. She will become the first female chief crown prosecutor and first from an ethnic minority community.

Children's centre jobs are under threat again

MORE jobs are at risk of redundancy as part of a shake-up of children's centres across Dudley, it has been announced.

It comes after the council made a U-turn on plans to close seven of the borough's 20 centres, after the proposals sparked outrage from parents and councillors.

At the time, Dudley Council said all centres would remain open for the foreseeable future but it would need to look at other ways to make savings due to pressure on the children's services budget.

But the council has revealed 19 jobs have been identified as at risk of redundancy, which includes nine management positions which already been cut.

The borough's education chief Tim Crumpton said: "We have 20 children's centres in the borough and employ 226 staff. Following extensive public consultation we have committed to keeping all 20 centres open and remodel the service.

"Sadly, we identified 19 positions at risk of redundancy. Of these, some have since left the service of their own choice and we are continuing to work with the other employees following council procedures."

The process is expected to be completed by the end of August. As part of the shake-up, five main centres have retained services while others have had their hours slashed and number of services cut as a result.

By Heather Large

The management of the centres has been merged into five 'cluster' centres, Brierley Hill, Dudley Central, Dudley North, Halesowen and Stourbridge. The number of management positions has been reduced from 14 to five.

Thousands protested against the closure plans which the council had hoped would save £2.3 million over the next three years to help meet a £30m shortfall.

Parents,councillors and MPs campaigned to protect them from closure, saying they were a vital part of communities. They argued the centres provide an important lifeline and a support network for new parents.

Hundreds of people responded to a council consultation and many raised petitions calling for the council to re-think its decision.

More than 15,000 children have access to the centres.

War art goes on display

A FOUR-MONTH exhibition displaying painting of battles from the First World War will go on show next week.

The work from Brian Yale will be displayed at Wolverhampton Art Gallery from July 26.

Paintings from Cradley-born Yale will form part of the gallery's commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War. The display runs until November and entry to the gallery is free.

Catering manager Tracey Reece at Himley Hall, where guided tours are being held

Upstairs downstairs on a tour of the hall

LANDMARK Himley Hall is unlocking its secrets for visitors with the opening of some of its usually unseen roomsfor a series of guided public tour.

People can have a brush with royalty and take a look at the suite where the Duke and Duchess of Kent honeymooned in 1934, or see the servants' quarters or a secret tunnel under the courtyard.

Sally Newell, Himley estate manager, said: "Visitors on guided tours get to see rooms not normally open to the public. It's a history of the top floor down to the cellars.

"These are all unrefurbished rooms and visitors will be getting a glimpse behind closed doors."

The refurbished north wing, complete with Art Deco style swimming pool and cinema bar, will also be available on the tours.

The dates for the tours are July 17, 23, 24 and 30, as well as August 6, 13, 14, 19, 20, 27 and 28, September 3, 4, 9 and 10.

The tours cost £6.90 per person including tea, coffee and biscuits.

Pre-booking is essential and can be done by calling Himley Hall staff on (01384) 817817.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More signing up to donate organs

THOUSANDS of people in Dudley have signed up to the organ donor register since the start of a council campaign.

The number of donors on the register from the borough has gone up by 20.9 per cent in two years.

There are now 65,560 people registered, up by 6,694 since Dudley Council launched an urgent appeal for more donors.

As part of National Transplant Week, last week they are continuing to appeal to more people to help save lives. Visit www.transplantweek.co.uk

More mortgages getting approval

MORTGAGE completions by the Tipton and Coseley Building Society were up by 26 per cent in the first six months of this year.

Mortgage applications processed during the first half of the year also outperformed the same period of 2013.

Mortgage completions by the society, which also has branches in Sedgley and Bilston, from January to June totalled £21.06 million and applications reached £33.72m compared to £31.30m in 2013.

Yellow Rattle ale will help wildlife

REAL ale drinkers will be helping local wildlife every time they quaff a pint of new brew Yellow Rattle.

The 4.5 per cent strength beer has been created by Sadler's Ales in Lye to support the work The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. A percentage of the price of each pint will go to the trust. It is sold at Sadler's Windsor Castle pub next to its brewery in Stourbridge Road.

Pub could make way for homes

A PUB will be demolished and replaced with five large homes under plans lodged with Dudley Council.

The Yew Tree Inn, in Hockley Lane, Netherton, will be knocked down if the proposal by Horgan Homes is approved. Outline plans to replace the closed pub were given the go-ahead in December.

Charity car wash

A CHARITY car wash is taking place at a supermarket in Kingswinford on Saturday to raise money for Diabetes UK. The event is taking place at Tesco Express, Moss Grove, from noon to 2pm for donations.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A COURT in Amsterdam has ordered the city to reconsider the yuletude appearance of "Black Pete," Santa Claus's traditional helper, after complaints that he is a negative racial stereotype. How long before Santa himself is banned on the grounds that he looks like Rolf Harris?

A STUDY reveals that children are now more likely to be bullied online than in the playground. I dare say someone, somewhere has filed this result under "progress."

WE are in North Yorkshire this week and stopped at York on the way up. It is still bedecked in Tour de France flags and bunting, plus hundreds of bikes, all painted yellow and stuck to hedges, railings and shop fronts. Painting them must ruin them and it's strange that the most visible way of celebrating the greatest cycle race in the world is by demonstrating how many unwanted, forsaken and abandoned bikes we possess. Apres le spray-paint, le tip.

I HAVE to report that Yorkshire is depressingly full of stick-thin middle-aged cycle-blokes in clingy, revealing Lycra. Stuck behind a posse of them in your car, it is impossible not to see things you'd rather not see, many of them with large veins.

AFTER the man-made majesty of York Minster, meet Mother Nature's equivalent. The eight-mile hike from Helmsley to Rievaulx Abbey and back takes you through a dense, Hobbity sort of forest. The floor is carpeted with wild garlic and the music is provided by cooing gangs of wood pigeons pulling out all the stops. Cool, shady, perfumed and echoing. A cathedral of conifers is a place to treasure.

CHANCELLOR George Osborne was trapped by a kid on a school visit who asked him: "What's seven times eight?" Quick as a flash, Osborne replied: "I've made it a rule in life not to answer a load of maths questions." Quick thinking, eh? Firstly, the Chancellor ducks the risk of getting the answer wrong. Secondly, he avoids slipping into the habits of the City where, if the client asks: "What's seven times eight?" the customary answer is: "Well, what figure did you have in mind, old boy?"

what a curious business is this gay "discrimination" case in Ulster where a Christian-owned cake shop is in trouble. The owner refused to make a cake for a gay wedding with two gay iced characters and the slogan: "Support gay marriage." But this is not one of those cases where a trader treats customers unfairly by, for example, refusing a gay couple a hotel room. In this case, the cake-maker would probably have refused to make the cake whether the customer was straight or gay. So where's the discrimination? It seems the cake maker's real offence is that he is not sufficiently enthusiastic about homosexuality.

CAR-sales cobblers. Over the years, the used-banger business has given us a rich vein of ducking, dodging and diving but the growing curse of the "administrative fee" takes the biscuit. This is an arbitrary sum, often about £75, slapped on the price of your car to cover items such as a check on its hire-purchase status. I was amused online to find one dealer explaining earnestly that he couldn't waive this fee for a customer because, if an earlier customer found out, "they (the dealer) can be made to repay anyone who has paid the fee before." Absolute cobblers but isn't it strangely reassuring to know the spirit of Arthur Daley is alive and well? Nice little runner, squire . . .

INTERESTING, too, to see that 25 years after the last genuine series of Minder was aired, you can still buy Arthur Daley stickers ("les autos par excellence") for your car.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

More than £1.5m spent on repairs

MORE than £1.5 million was spent repairing emergency services' vehicles involved in crashes, figures reveal.

West Midlands Police was the biggest spender, having to splash out more than £1m to repair damaged cars following hundreds of collisions.

West Midlands Ambulance, West Mercia Police and Staffordshire Police spent six-figure sums. West Midlands Fire Service spent just £22,000.

The figures come from a Freedom of Information request submitted by The Chronicle' s sister newspaper the Express and Star.

Costs

Bosses say they use a variety of ways to keep costs down, including using recycled parts in repairs and local garages.

Gary Mallett, fleet manager for West Midlands Police, said: "During 2013/14 there were over 350 collisions where police vehicles were hit by other drivers with no blame attributable to the police driver, criminally damaged or occasionally where controlled tactical contact was made to bring a safe ending to a particular incident. Some of these incidents require West Midlands Police to fund the repair or replacement police vehicle. Certain specialist roles within the force, like traffic policing, require high-performance vehicles in order to tackle offenders who may be driving similarly capable vehicles to commit crime on the region's road network . Such cars can be expensive to repair."

Burial fees are among highest in the country

THE West Midlands is the eighth most expensive place in the UK to be buried in — almost £1,000 above the average cost.

On average it costs £5,552 to be buried in the region, compared to the national figure of £4,690.

Nationally, costs of cremations have soared 12 per cent since 2012, as well as nine per cent for burials.

The West Midlands is marginally cheaper than the national average for cremations, at £3,175.

Financial service firm Engage Mutual has released the data, with bosses saying the cost was a burden on relatives.

Only 18 per cent of people aged over 50 had made specific provisions for funeral costs, while nine per cent admit to having no idea how much one costs to organise.

Pressure

It predicts that in 30 years time burials could cost as much as £13,000, while cremations could cost £9,000.

In Dudley, Councillor Patrick Harley has been outspoken on burial charges in the past when the local authority announced its fees would rise by 15 per cent.

He said: "It seems death is about as expensive as taxes these days.

"Unfortunately costs do get increased. This is something that people's don't think about until the worst happens. But when it does happen it puts more pressure on people."

Northern Ireland is the

By Tim Spiers

cheapest country in the UK for a burial with an average of £3,500.

But the figures more than double in London where the average rockets to £7,490.

Fees have risen across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

It now costs a basic amount of £1,762 for an exclusive lawn burial in Walsall, slightly higher than £1,610 in Dudley.

The same service costs £1,587 in Wolverhampton, £1,557 in Sandwell and £1,540 in South Staffordshire.

There will also be charges for such things as administration, embalming, grave digging, use of a church and the hiring a vicar, a verger and an organist adding to the total.

In March burial fees in South Staffordshire were reduced by as much as 20 per cent, including for people living outside the district who wanted to be buried there.

Award for nursery teacher

A NURSERY teacher has been recognised for her work during a 25 year career with an award from Dudley Council. Victoria Smith, aged 47, of High Street, Pensnett, has taught generations of young children across Dudley.

She started as a nursery nurse at St Joseph's RC Primary School, in Dudley, then taught at Wrens Nest Primary, Dudley Wood Primary, The Glynne Primary in Kingswinford, and St Edmond and St Johns Primary in Dudley.

The longest part of her career was spent at Belle Vue Primary School, in Wordsley, where she taught for 17 years.

Van thief got a wild surprise

Mollie Judge, Gill Reynold, Paul Beach and Megan Price with some of the animals

THIEVES got more than they bargained for when they stole a minibus with pythons and tarantuals inside.

More than 30 exotic animals were in the back of the plain white van, which was taken from a church car park in Sedgley.

The converted Sherpa van was found in the early hours of the next day abandoned more than two miles away in Lower Gornal with the animals still inside.

Owner Paul Beach said he was relieved to be reunited with his animals.

A Royal python, a 4ft Australian Carpet Python and corn snakes were in the van as well as a Harris hawk, African eagle owls, a cockatoo, beaded dragons, a tortoise, lizards and toads, Chilean rose tarantulas, hissing cockroaches, chinchillas, leopard Bengal kittens and a meerkat.

They belong to Natural History Presentations, which tours schools in the Midlands.

Mr Beach, 59, from Turl Street in Sedgley had left the van for around 45 minutes while he organised a visit.

Sponsors and signs in move to raise cash

DUDLEY Council is bidding to raise an extra £200,000 in advertising and event sponsorship over the next four years as it attempts to balance its books.

Advertising space on town boundary and roundabout signs have been identified as ways to continue generating cash for Dudley Council.

Other initiatives include selling of advertising spaces on the borough's 30 bins and 28 poster sites at 10 locations across the patch.

Sponsorship at public ceremonies has also been targeted as a way of the council generating cash.

The council's marketing team raises £60,000 a year but bosses have raised a target for staff to bring in an extra £8,000 this financial year.

A further £184,000 is to be made over three years under the proposed budget, which is set for final approval at next week's full council meeting. It comes as part of a fresh wave of cuts put forward by council bosses who are struggling to meet a shortfall in funding due to Government reductions in funding.

There are 13 roundabouts in the borough available for advertising and sponsorship. A further 22 are planned.

Children's charity shop

A CHILDREN'S charity shop will be the latest addition to a £50million shopping complex, creating three jobs.

Barnardo's has announced it is opening its second store in Stourbridge at the Crown Centre.

The charity already has a store in High Street, which is says will remain open as well as the new shop.

It comes a two weeks after Explore Learning received planning permission to open a children's tuition centre at the complex.

The education centre will see 20 jobs created.

Cannabis haul

MORE than 300 cannabis plants have been uncovered by police in the Black Country in one day.

Officers raided the two separate properties in the Kates Hill area of Dudley and in Wednesfield where the illegal drug plants were found.

Introducing a new way to register for voting

RESIDENTS can now register online to vote as part of Government changes to the electoral system.

A new individual registration system is being introduced. It will replace the old Victorian system where the "head of household" registered everyone living in a property.

Now, each individual will be responsible for registering themselves, including online.

Responsible

John Polychronakis, chief executive and elections returning officer at Dudley Council, said: "The new system means that individuals will be responsible for their own details when registering to vote.

"While it will have no bearing on the voting process, it is important that the registration system is brought up to date to cater for individuals."

The vast majority of residents will not have to do anything, and will receive confirmation that they have automatically been rolled across to the new system. Others will receive a letter asking for more information.

People can register to vote by visiting www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Tony in fight for lost canals

TV presenter and historian Sir Tony Robinson – Baldrick in Blackadder– is highlighting a campaign to rescue Britain's lost canals.

The campaign calls on people to rediscover and bring back to life thousands of miles of derelict canals that played a part in the Industrial Revolution. As part of the campaign the Canal & River Trust, which cares for 2,000 miles of working waterways in England and Wales, is publishing an online map highlighting the lost canals. More than 200 canal miles have been restored since 2000.

Jobs on the rise

THE jobs market in the West Midlands has seen a 10 per cent rise in vacancies over the last year.

According to April to June statistics from the totaljobs.com Barometer, this is slightly higher than the national rate of a nine per cent rise.

Bottles from 200 years ago found in dig

Stored bottles discovered during the dig

DOZENS of bottles containing shoe polish dating back to the 18th Century have been uncovered by archaeologists at the site of a historic market in the Black Country.

The 30 intact stoneware bottles of 'liquid blacking' were found carefully stacked up against walls of a demolished room, thought to be a cellar, below the market area in Dudley.

Labelling on one of the bottles indicates they were produced between 1791 and 1816.

The room would have formed part of a complex of market buildings, once known as Middle Row, in the central part of the market place in the High Street.

Demolished in the mid 19th Century, the buildings, and their contents, are only being discovered again as work begins on replacing the existing market stalls. It is part of Dudley Council's £6.7million regeneration project in the town centre.

The archaeological work is being carried out by SLR Consulting. Workers discovered the bottles where the floor and lower parts of the wall to the demolished brick-floor room remained.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "It's incredible to know that this fascinating piece of history has been preserved for all this time under the pavements of Dudley town centre. During the planning for these works we factored in a programme of archaeological works for exciting finds such as these bottles and we will continue to take this opportunity to learn and record exciting facts from our past."

Last month the archaeologists uncovered shells of oysters, which were a popular fast food 400 years ago.

They have also two former market buildings which were part of the Middle Row.

They have records and maps showing their locations, but little is still known about what each building was used for.

Prison for the death race driver who killed before

Report by John Scott

A CONVICTED killer from Dudley who caused the death of a mother-of-two while speeding in a race was today is starting a jail term – six years after he was locked up for a deadly stabbing.

Ashley Lovekin had never had either a driving lesson or a licence and was behind the wheel of someone else's car when it crashed, killing 31-year-old Nicky Robinson.

Lovekin, aged 24, had previously been locked up for seven years for the manslaughter of his mother's partner.

He was driving the car which crashed in Birmingham Road, Parkfields, Wolverhampton, on August 4, last year.

Miss Robinson, who he had met hours earlier in the city's Gorgeous Bar, was the front seat passenger when Lovekin lost control, killing her and seriously injuring his friend Daniel Richards who was sitting in the back and had repeatedly told him to slow down, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

CCTV evidence confirmed that Lovekin was racing a white Audi A5 which sped off from the scene following the accident and has never been traced, revealed Mr Robert Price, prosecuting. The two cars undercut another vehicle as they turned off Wolverhampton city centre's Ring Road onto Birmingham Road travelling towards Dudley.

Witness

Lovekin, driving a blue Peugeot 206, was 'tailgating' the Audi at an average speed of 49mph in a 30mph limit zoe before pulling out onto the wrong side of the road to overtake it. He tried to return to the correct lane on a sweeping left hand bend but clipped the kerb of a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the road, sending the car spinning onto the pavement on the opposite side of the street.

The vehicle tore through a set of cast iron bollards at the entrance to cul-de-sac Curzon Street, ripping some from their concrete base, before rolling onto its side and smashing into a lamp post.

The Audi was several seconds behind it when the crash occurred. Its driver stopped, took one look at the scene and accelerated away, the court heard.

Ashley Lovekin — represents a significant risk to the public, said judge

Victim Nicky Robinson with daughters Keira and Karys

Wreckage of the Peugeot 206 after the fatal crash

Miss Robinson, of Bradley, Bilston, who was mother to Keira, 11, and eight year old Karys, died instantly. Rescue crews worked for two hours to release back-seat passenger Mr Richards from the wreckage. He suffered a badly broken leg and arm and was off work for eight months.

Lovekin was badly hurt and in hospital for 11 days. He initially told police he had been a rear seat passenger in the car but was confirmed as the driver by Mr Richards.

The two men had met Miss Robinson, whose children were being cared for by her mother, that night at the Gorgeous Bar. She had gone for an evening out with a girlfriend who owned the Peugeot and had handed the keys to Miss Robinson before the pair split up.

Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, defending, said: "He (Lovekin) is devastated by the consequences of his actions which he describes as blind stupidity. He recognises that there will be people tempted to hate him as a result of his behaviour and he will have to carry the enormous responsibility of what he has done to the grave."

Relatives of Miss Robinson shouted as Lovekin, of Springfield Road, Dudley, was jailed for five years and eight months with a five-year extended licence.

He was also banned from driving for eight years after last week admitting causing both death and serious injury by dangerous driving.

The court also heard that Lovekin, who claimed to be unable to remember exactly what had happened during the run-up to the accident, was sent to a young offenders institution for seven years in September 2008 after being convicted of the manslaughter of 33-year-old Lance Hamilton, partner of his mother Joanne Perry. The victim received a single fatal stab wound to the stomach after a family dispute spilled into the street.

Judge John Warner told Lovekin: "This is not the first time you have killed someone by an unlawful act. You were racing that car and that you represent a significant risk of causing serious harm to members of the public."

Relatives of Miss Robinson in a statement said: "Nicky was a loving daughter, mother, sister, cousin and niece.

"She was an outgoing, beautiful and bubbly person who was loved by many. She lived for her two girls, who she loved and adored."

NEWS IN BRIEF

School honoured with top accolade

A SECONDARY school has been awarded with a top accolade for helping its most gifted students.

The Kingswinford School was given the honour by National Association for Able Students in Education.

It has been awarded a National Challenge accredited school status by the body. Staff at the school say they have been aiming to improve provision for able, gifted and talented students.

The school was planning a celebration evening this week.

Mayor in guide dog experience

THE Mayor of Dudley will experience what life is like without the gift of sight when she welcomes a specialist guide dog to her borough.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston, will be blindfolded and guided around the streets of Dudley by Cofi the guide dog during the visit on July 24.

Guide Dogs is one of two causes backed by the Mayor, as she pledges to raise thousands of pounds for the charity. The other charity is Action Heart.Ma

Man arrested after police raid house

A MAN was arrested on suspicion of theft following an armed raid on a house in Dudley on July 9.

Police officers used a saw to get though the front door of the address in Minehead Road at 7.30am.

The 26-year-old man was arrested. Three dogs were also seized from the house over fears of officers' safety.

Police were at the address for three hours.

Celebrating late commissioner

THE life of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones, who died aged 59, will be celebrated at an event next week.

Wolverhampton Civic Hall will host the event ahead of Mr Jones' private family funeral on Wednesday, July 23. His family ask those attending the celebration, from 1pm, not to wear black.

Homes on MEB site

PLANS to build on the site of the old MEB headquarters in Halesowen have been approved. A&J Mucklow Group will build 66 homes, a mix of townhouses and apartments, on land off Mucklow Hill.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

BARONESS Butler-Sloss, the aunt of actor Nigel Havers, has stepped down from her role as chairman of an inquiry into allegations of a child-abuse cover-up before she even started.

She was supposed to be investigating claims that the establishment – including senior figures in the police, clergy and judiciary, as well as a number of MPs – had tried to hush the whole thing up. Some said, as the sister of the Attorney General of the time, she was too close to the establishment herself.

It probably didn't help when her nephew, actor Nigel Havers, weighed in to defend his aunt's honour, but one would not envy the Home Secretary in choosing a replacement. A senior judge who is not part of the establishment?

❑❑❑

WOT did yo do fer Black Country Day, then mucker?

When Dudley musician 'Black Country Gaz' Sawers first had the idea for a day to celebrate all that is best about the Cradle of British Industry, he could never have guessed how it would have taken off, with word about the event even spreading to the heart of Downing Street. Even the Chancellor of the Exchequer got in on the act by posing with a Black Country flag.

The thing that has made the past few days so memorable was that it was not something imposed on the region by the great and the good, but that it actually came from the people of the Black Country themselves. Yes, the councils played an important role in supporting it, but it truly was a grass roots event. Even the flag was designed by Stourbridge schoolgirl, Gracie Shepherd.

While the Government and lottery pours millions of pounds into so-called cultural events designed to promote the various parts of Britain, Black Country Mon just gets on with it – no PR consultants, no glossy advertising, just a lot of hard graft.

This was the ingenuity which turned the Black Country into the industrial powerhouse of the world. Bostin', ay it?

❑❑❑

SUPPOSE you won £52,000 on the lottery, or maybe the Premium Bonds, or inherited it in a will. What would you would do? Carefully consider how you will use the money? Mabye think about paying off the mortgage, or a new car perhaps?

Well when Michaela Hutchings of Lichfield incorrectly had £52,000 paid into her account by the city council, she went out to Birmingham's Bull Ring shopping centre and blew £8,000 on designer clothes within 48 hours.She has since been ordered to pay the money back or face going to jail, and she claims she is being victimised because she is a bit of a looker. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

But she is hardly a model of financial responsibility, is she?

Ready for the off — the crowd at Himley park

A tropical theme for these two generations of runners

And they're away... on the run to fight cancer

'Fantastic day of tears and laughter'

More than 2,000 women and girls took to their heels in Himley Park raising cash for Cancer Research UK

WOMEN gave cancer a kicking as around 2,000 friends and relatives took part in the Race for Life in the grounds of Himley Hall.

For many taking part it proved an emotional day as they remembered loved ones. But everyone came together to show their fighting spirit — all while donning pink and fancy dress outfits to make the day go with a bang.

Organisers were hoping to raise thousands to help the battle against cancer from the event on Sunday.

Stride

Many took part in an energetic warm up in the shadow of the hall before two scheduled races during the day.

And then it was best foot forward as they stride out through the park and the along the waterside of the pool.

Collette O'Toole, aged 51, brought a several family members including her sister Roseleen Sadler, 43, and 26-year-old daughter Katie fromTipton to take part.

They were remembering her parents Sheila who died two years ago aged 74 after suffering bile duct cancer. Just 12 weeks later her husband and their father Patrick, 79, also passed away from cancer.

"It was an emotional day for everyone," she said. "But we got all the family together to keep each other going."

Mother-of-three Nins Gill, 37, left her sons at home to join sister Dav Dhami and her children Syah, 11, and 15-year-old Tia for the Race for Life event.

Mrs Gill, of Black Lake, West Bromwich, was doing the race in memory of her mother Rajinder Bindra who died 17 years ago aged just 53 of cancer of the oesophagus.

Pretty in pink and off to a screaming start at the Race for Life in Himley

"It was a fun day," she said. "It was good to see everyone coming together to help people with cancer."

Natalie Eustace, aged 37, took part with her friend Sam Priest and their daughters, Annalise, 11, and Alicia, 10, on the day.

Mrs Eustace, of Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes, said the Himley event was their third on the row having previously ran in Walsall and Telford. The group always chose a fancy dress theme, this year picking St Trinian's outfits complete with hockey sticks.

That proved useful for Sam who had to hobble around the course after sustaining a foot injury.

They were determined to complete the course to help raise more than £150.

It had taken on special significance for Mrs Eutace's family as her father Keith, 77, had recently received news he was clear of bowel cancer.

Tracey Duffy, event organiser, said: "I want to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part in Race for Life, and their supporters, as well as our heroic volunteers.

"It was a fantastic day, full of emotion, courage, tears and laughter as over 3,400 women joined forces to show cancer who's boss.

"Now I'm asking all the women who took part and all the friends, family and colleagues who pledged to sponsor them, to transform their passion into progress by returning the money they've raised as soon as possible."

Cost

Cancer Research UK does not receive any Government funding for its work. Money raised goes towards researchers who help more men, women and children survive.

Ms Duffy added: "Many people don't realise that their entry fee only covers the cost of the event.

"It's the sponsorship money that really makes a difference.

"So, whatever the amount, we're asking everyone to make every effort to return their sponsorship money as soon as possible. It can be paid in online, by phone or by cheque."

Nell Barrie, Cancer Research UK's senior science communication manager, said: "Each year more and more people are diagnosed with cancer, so there's still much more to do.

"That's why we need we need everyone who took part in Race for Life in Dudley to make every step count by supporting our doctors, nurses and scientists so they can take strides forward in the fight against this devastating disease."

Some 2,300 or so women, children – and one man – ran around Wolverhampton's West Park last month as part of the Wolverhampton Race for Life, one of the Black Country's other major in the pink fundraisers which had a target of £150,000 to boost Cancer Research UK.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THERE are times I wonder if some of the Tories enjoy a good strike.

It gives them the chance to remind the country of Labour's reliance on the unions and try to get everyone to gang up on them.

It's our children who suffered the loss of a day's precious education, the critics say. It's the hardworking (all the parties love that word) parents who had to make alternative arrangements. The unions say they're doing this for everyone. The Tories say they're hurting everyone.

The taxpaying public are playing piggy in the middle while our kids' education and future is in an emotional custody battle between opposing ideologies. The unions make the valid point that it wasn't lollipop ladies, bin men or social workers that caused the recession.

Neither was it the children or the mums and dads who have been inconvenienced by a shut school or left with a full bin on the basis of a strike justified with turnouts as low as 20 per cent in some unions.

Firefighters had a much bigger turnout for their ballot.

But their own reasons for striking – particularly the concern over 60-year-old firefighters being expected to carry people out of burning buildings due to pension reforms – were swept up in a general wave of public sector discontent because everyone chose the same day to walk out. Everyone walking out at once might have grabbed the headlines, but it also let the Government to condemn them en masse rather than address the many and varied concerns each union has.

Meanwhile Tory, Lib Dem and Labour MPs who either imposed miserable austerity on the country or presided over years of unsustainable spending (debate those points among yourselves) were probably not too bothered by schools shutting.

They earn more than double the national average salary. I can't imagine any of them was particularly stretched by the extra childcare costs.

At least the Tories took a side, whether rightly or wrongly, in condemning the strike.

Labour chose to neither support nor condemn it officially even though its bread is buttered by the unions and their donations.

It's a strange position to take because Labour owes its very existence to the trade union movement.

I don't see why Ed Miliband needs to appear so coy about it.

He could do with working out exactly where he stands with public sector strikes so the unions know what they're letting themselves in for if he becomes Prime Minister.

As any 'hardworking' person affected by the walkouts will attest, playing piggy in the middle is no fun at all.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

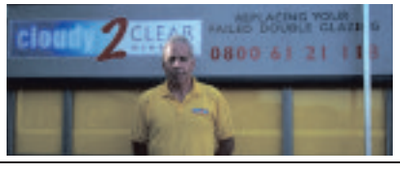
It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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WE have read the views expressed in your paper in relation to immigration.

Whilst we are aware of the poverty which exists in this country and are trying to tackle it, we as Christians have to object to unjust scapegoating of immigrants and demands that funds going to impoverished third world countries be stopped.

For those of us who believe in a god or have any form of human compassion, let us be grateful our circumstances are not so desperate that we have to resort to risking life and limb by travelling on overcrowded unsafe boats or on the undercarriages of lorries to reach Europe.

Christ said: "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me."

There are enough resources in this world to meet everyone's need but not everyone's greed.

Our nation was recently touched by the marvellous example shown by Stephen Sutton. Hopefully, the selfless generosity of spirit he displayed will live with us.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP
St Thomas' Church Tettenhall

Memories of cousins

I AM hoping that some (elderly) readers may remember G E Young and Sons (butchers) and Taylors (ice cream makers) who had shops in Bilston High Street in the 40s and 50s.

George and Sally Young were my grandparents. They had nine children of whom three were girls; Gwen whose married name was Harwood and later Pearman, Ivy whose married name was Meredith, Lily whose married name was Flavell. Their children are my cousins and I have lost contact with them.

The Taylors had a son, my cousin, who attended Normanhurst boarding school in the dreadful winter of 1947.

If you have information please contact by email on johnjjjharwood@btinternet.com or by calling 01926 651109.

J HARWOOD
Warwick

Passport chaos is a disgrace

THE passport office is in chaos. This coalition government, through axing hundreds of jobs, have now a backlog of almost 500,000 applicants waiting for their passports.

It costs the passport office £57 to process a passport, they charge £72.50, so they stand to make around £50 million profit which will go straight back to the treasury. In the meantime, thousands of holiday makers are at risk of not receiving their passports in time for their holidays. It is costing £1m a month on overtime and calling in extra staff.

Sacking staff and treating a public service as if it was a profit-making exercise just shows they are not fit to govern. You have to blame David Cameron and Theresa May for this.

They should be using this £50m on getting staff reinstated to get this backlog cleared as a matter of urgency. After all, the people applying have filled in their forms correctly and paid their money up front.

B WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

PM's promises may not be workable

THE Prime Minister came to the Black Country promising to invest £138.7m of taxpayers' money in the area over the next five years of which it is claimed that £35m will be spent on projects in the next year alone.

Some of the projects proposed such as road and motorway improvements do make sense. As the country is £1 trillion in debt I have to ask how this money can be found without storing up yet more debt for future generations?

Although with the vast majority of the investment planned over the next five years it does sound to me rather like the cheque is in the post and like so many promises that have been made to Black Country communities in the past I have to question if this cheque arrives will it bounce?

There are plans to train people to work in the construction industry – foreign nationals from poorer EU countries already undercut British construction workers on labour charges and I would argue such schemes may prove to be worthless unless the problem of mass uncontrolled immigration is solved first.

He also plans to spend some of the investment on the infrastructure on the white elephant that is HS2.

I would call on Mr Cameron to invest the money in local rail schemes such as the Wednesbury to Merry Hill metro link.

GRAHAM EARDLEY
UKIP PPC for West Bromwich West

Thank mechanic mystery man

ON Saturday, June 28, my daughter was driving towards Franche when a piece of metal fell from underneath her car, clanging on the road.

She pulled up near the Co-op and to her surprise a mechanic appeared from nowhere, had seen it happen,got underneath and sorted the problem out and promptly disappeared. This just proves there are still some really good kind and caring people about. My daughter Claire would like to thank this gentleman as she does not have his name.

C MARTIN
Worcestershire

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9.45am Pilates
11.00am Kick Start Fat Loss™
11.00am Yoga
11.00am Rebound
1:45pm Zumbini
5:30pm Step
6.30pm Zumba®
7:00pm Boxercise®
7.40pm Top To Toe Tone

TUESDAY
9:30am Zumba®
10:45am Hot Hula
2:00pm Zumbini® *Termly - ask for details*
6:00pm Rebound
6:30pm Metafit™
7:10pm Metafit™
7:10pm Zumba® Step
7:40pm Kick Start Fat Loss™

WEDNESDAY
9:45am Pilates
11.00am Rebound
4:00pm Zumba® Kids
6:00pm Insanity
6:30pm Step
6:45pm Fitness Pilates
7:45pm Zumba® Step

THURSDAY
9:30am Old Skool Aerobics
9:45am Rebound
10:45am Zumba® Gold
6:30pm Metafit™
6:30pm Zumba®
7:10pm KSFL® Express no exercise
7:45pm Metafit™
7:45pm Rebound

FRIDAY
9:45am Zumba Step
10.45am Rebound
5:45pm KSFL® Express - no exercise
6:30pm Zumba®

SATURDAY
9:30am Metafit™
9:30am Zumba® Kids Junior 3-7yrs
10:15am Zumba® Kids 8yrs+
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UK day of action for Big Project

Soroptimists

MARY Queen of Scots entertained more than 100 people at an event organised by Cannock Soroptimists.

Lesley Smith, curator of Tutbury Castle, dressed in authentic costume, spoke as Mary, telling everyone of her life. This was followed by Lesley coming out of character to pass on many more fascinating nuggets relating to the life and times of Mary, Queen of Scots.

As always, the event was sold out and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. A raffle to support the club's two main charities for the year, Pathway and Women's Aid, raised more than £350.

On Saturday, July 19, the club will be joining with all other clubs in the UK in the Day of Action to raise awareness and funds for the BIG (Birthing in the Gambia) project.

A coffee morning with a raffle and bring & buy will be held at the home of Soroptimist Shirley Brown between 10am and 12.30pm. Tickets cost £4.

The BIG Project is a partnership between Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) and the international medical charity Maternal and Childhealth Advocacy International (MCAI) – and its partner Advanced Life Support Group (ALSG).

This is a three year fundraising challenge which will save the lives of countless critically ill women, babies and children in the Gambia.

More information about all of SI Cannock's events is available at www.sigbi.org/cannock-and-district

Special songs are sung for Dora, 98

Ladies Probus

THE Cannock Chase Ladies Probus Club's annual lunch was held at the Barns restaurant in Huntington.

Chairman Pat Stanley welcomed everyone before introducing her special guests at the top table.

Each of the five Probus clubs in the area were represented as follows: Mr Gerry Hindley, chairman of Cannock and District Probus Club, accompanied by his wife Dandy; Mrs Joyce Cox, secretary of Cannock & District Ladies Probus Club; Mr Jim Corke, chairman of Hednesford Probus Club, accompanied by his wife Pamela and Mr Peter Wood, chairman of Cannock Chase Probus Club, accompanied by his wife Janet. Mr Roland Stanley accompanied the ladies club chairman.

The assembled members and guests enjoyed a splendid luncheon before Mrs Stanley introduced David St John who provided the entertainment. He sang songs from the First World War specially for Dora Leighton who is now 98 and a founder member. Cecily Garbett gave the vote of thanks.

Picnic followed by model maker's talk

Wombourne WI

JULY 2 was a very busy day for Wombourne WI.

At lunch time the club met with other local WIs at the Bratch picnic area and waited for the delivery of the WI baton on its journey around the country until it reaches the Albert Hall in July 2015, celebrating the centenary of the WI.

After a group photograph by the Bratch Locks, the ladies returned to sit in the sun, watch the boats go by and enjoy a picnic including strawberries and bucks fizz. A lovely day.

The evening meeting was a talk on military models given by Wombourne member, Doctor Geraldine Brown. This proved to be a fascinating insight into her hobby which began, as a child, when she was given a fort and a box of soldiers. Geraldine not only makes her own models but also renovates broken pieces to add to her collection remaking heads, legs and anything that needs replacing.

Geraldine does not participate in model war games preferring to show her pieces. One exhibit was seen by Blue Peter and Geraldine was invited onto the show. This model is now in the Guard's Museum, London.

This was a truly fascinating talk and demonstration by a very skilful modeller. While taking refreshments, ladies were able to have a closer look at all the models brought in, which made everyone appreciate even more the skills and craftmanship involved.

Impressed by city at AGM

Cheslyn Hay TWG

SEVERAL ladies went to the Townswomen's Guild AGM in Cardiff.

They were impressed with the beauty of the city, the welcome given to them by the mayor and the colourful parade of guild banners.

The two topics discussed were 1): Should the voting age be lowered to 16? and 2): Should the TWG urge the government to enforce and extend the existing legislation regarding FGM? The majority said no to lowering the voting age and yes to enforcing the banning of FGM, which is already illegal in this country.

Cheslyn Hay group will be holding a coffee morning and a table top sale on August 7 at the Salem chapel hall,with proceeds going to the guild's chosen charities.

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Bostin' weekend as the Black Country flag flies

IF one word could sum up the joyous scenes celebrating Black Country Day it has to be bostin'.

The first festival of music, culture and, most importantly, fun, created a party giving the community a cause to smile as they celebrated our region's special day.

Black Country Day was celebrated over the weekend and on the actual day, Monday, July 14, not only in our corner of the country but around the world.

Castle

From Dudley Castle to soldiers serving in Afghanistan, it has never felt better to be a Black Countrymon.

Festival founder 'Black Country' Gaz Sawers said: "I cor think of a better word than bostin to say how great it is that so many people are behind the festival and want to celebrate Black Country Day."

Hundreds of the 5f x 3ft flags flew off the shelves at the Black Country Living Museum and Black Country T-Shirt Shop in Cradley Heath.

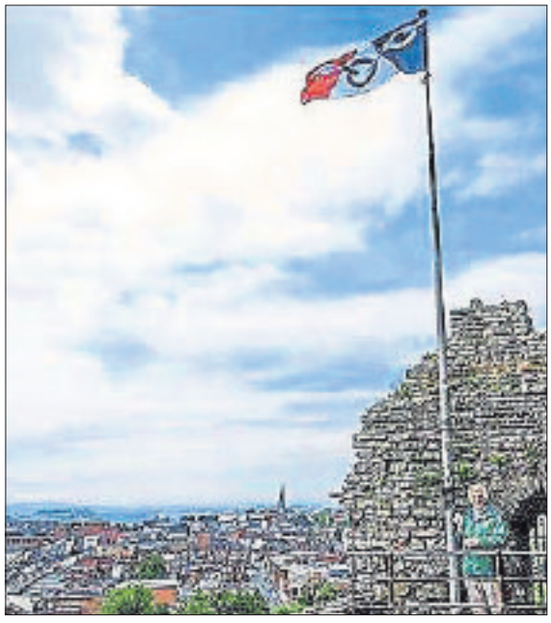
Paul Palmer, owner of Black Country T-Shirt Shop, said: "In under two days we have sold 75 flags. We have sold about 300 of them. It shows everyone's proud to be where they are from."

Hundreds of events took place and it proved a red, white and black extravaganza as the Black Country Flag flew proudly as thousands turned out for a weekend mostly blessed with good weather.

Traditional comedy stars like Aynuk joined a new generation of performers like The Fizzogs as crowds celebrated the return of the Black Country Night Out at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley.

Dudley's Stone Street square was transformed by stallholders and musical acts. The Black Country Living Museum hosted a packed programme of activities to give residents and tourists a true taste of Black Country heritage.

There was a picnic in the park at Warley Woods, a community event at The Dell Stadium[, while acts entertained shoppers in Halesowen town centre and at he Red House Glass Cone. More than 20,000 people poured through the gates of West Park for the Wolverhampton and Black Country Festival and there was a Black Country pride them to the OH Festival in Old Hill. It was a bostin' weekend.



Dudley Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock ensured the flag flew on Dudley Castle

Johns Garden Open Day

At Ashwood Nurseries

Saturday 19th July

Open: 10am- 4pm. Entrance Charge £5.00

Entire entrance proceeds are donated to our nominated **Charity of the Year,** Stroke Support West Midlands.

John's Garden in July sees a glorious display of grasses, herbaceous perennials, *daphnes* and *clematis* in flower. For hydrangea enthusiasts, a selection of *Hydrangea serrata, aspera, arborescens, paniculata* and *quercifolia* will be the undisputed stars of the show. The tropical border will be full of dramatic foliage and exotic hot colours while the *agapanthus, eucomis* and *cissicus* will be blooming in the South African border. The succulent garden on the patio is a unique feature and well worth a look. As always, there will be some wonderful summer pots throughout the garden.

Entertainment in the Garden:
The Gentlemen Songsters: 11.30am
Sedgley Morris Men: 12.30pm
Folk singers *Eve and John*: 2 pm
(All performances are weather permitting)

Other attractions during the day:
Heritage Working Boats will have a historic barge moored on the canal-side for visitors to explore.
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust will be showcasing their valuable conservation work.
The Black Country Woodturners.
Ross Pearsall, local craftsman who creates the most wonderful wooden carved animals using a chainsaw.
Cottage Delight Preserves will be launching a range of new products and offering free tasters in The Gift Shop at Ashwood
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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices , believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today, He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 20 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

'Limiting public sector pay rises has been a difficult, but necessary, decision to preserve jobs as we reduce the deficit'

LAST week there was a one day strike for public sector workers in a dispute over pay. I know times have been tough for the hardworking people who deliver our public services. Labour's Great Recession made our country poorer.

Limiting public sector pay rises has been a difficult, but necessary, decision to preserve jobs as we reduce the deficit. If we hadn't taken this difficult decision, more people working in the public sector would have lost their jobs — or we would have racked up more borrowing and more debt, meaning higher taxes to pay for it.

Restraint

Striking unions have donated £23.6 million to the Labour Party. If Ed Miliband was serious about delivering on his promise two years ago to take on his union bosses on public sector pay restraint, he would have publicly called on Len McCluskey to call it off — but he didn't. The result was inconvenience and additional cost for many millions of hardworking people up and down our country.

I was pleased to visit Wallheath Engineering Limited in Brierley Hill and Balustrade UK Limited in Netherton to share with managing directors Paul Ingram and Trevor Bennett respectively what I have researched about the origins of European Union legislation on CE certification for construction products, agreed in 2011. It came into force on July 1 and affects fabrication and engineering businesses producing certain products. As well as the European dynamic, the visits once again reinforced the importance, especially in terms of levels of employment and skills across our country, of micro-businesses.

Small businesses are also often hotbeds of innovation in our economy. We should celebrate the role of small businesses like Wallheath Engineering and Balustrade UK in our economy, something that I am always willing to do in Dudley South.

I was delighted to visit another small business, Castle Blinds in Brierley Hill, to meet with company directors Brian and Amanda Jones. The company, which has a blinds and awnings showroom on Stream Road in Kingswinford, manufactures in Brierley Hill.

I was able to discuss with Brian and Amanda measures to encourage Dudley Council to clamp down on illegal flyposting of unsightly — and often hugely misleading — advertising boards on traffic lights and street furniture across our borough.

I was delighted to welcome my colleague, Sir Bill Cash, Conservative Member of Parliament for Stone, to Kingswinford Conservative Club for a talk and buffet supper for members of Dudley South Conservative Association.

The evening was a great success with a big turnout. Sir Bill spoke very passionately and is, without doubt, a great patriot.

I have the pleasure of serving on Sir Bill's European Scrutiny Committee in the Commons and so was able to thank him in person for coming over to Dudley South a few days later at a select committee meeting.

I held a busy constituency advice surgery at Brierley Hill Library.

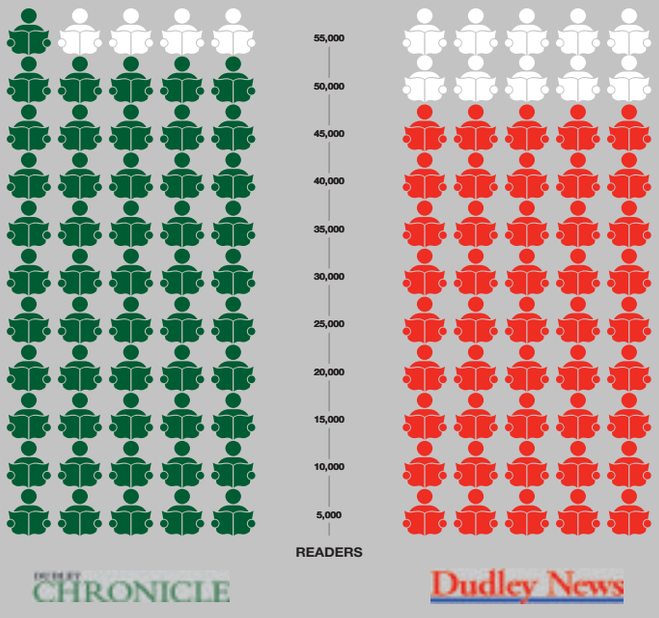
One of my favourite events of the year is addressing the Dudley South Conservative Ladies' Luncheon Club at The Kingfisher, Wall Heath. Normally I speak about politics and goings on in the world of Westminster but, occasionally, the ladies ask me to talk about something outside of my usual work.

Previously I did a talk around slides of the Conservative Party social action projects to Rwanda in east Africa that I've taken part in. This time I shared some of my passion for the music of The Beatles. Afterwards some ladies in the audience told me they had seen the band perform live on one of their handful of visits to the Black Country!

The club meets monthly for lunches and coach trips and is very friendly and welcoming of new members — see www.dudleysouth.com/ladies-luncheon-club for membership details.

Chris Kelly can be contacted via 01384 211 041, office@chriskelly.mp or House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. You can also read the latest news and views at www.chriskelly.mp and sign-up for e-newsletters at www.recordofaction.com.

DUDLEY CHRONICLE



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It's from till to tome for checkout worker with novel

A SHOP assistant is hoping keen readers will 'checkout' her new novel after she realised her dream of becoming an author.

Mother-of-two Donna Brittle was inspired to reach her goal after her father John Cole passed away suddenly.

The 35-year-old from Sedgley is celebrating after her novel, Beautifully Unbroken, was published.

She lives with my husband of 14-years Matthew, also 35, in Milking Bank, Dudley, who she met while attending the Dormston School.

Donna, who works part time at a nearby Tesco Express, has been coming up with ideas for her own book over the years.

She started writing Beautifully Unbroken around 18 months ago but when her father became ill last summer the writing stalled.

He died just before Christmas aged 62 after a cancer battle. Donna said she resolved that life was too short to put things off and she pressed ahead with her writing.

"My prime goal was to get the book published so as I had my very own copy on my bookshelf next to my many other favourite books but the response has gone above and beyond anything I ever expected," she said.

"I feel very overwhelmed that I can now hold my own book in my hands and know that I did that, I dreamed the dream and it became reality," she added.

Her novel tells the story of British actress Jo Summers, who faces past relationships in a bid to find happiness. It is available on Amazon as a download and paperback and on Google Play books

Donna Brittle from Dudley has published her first novel, about a woman facing obstacles on the path to love

House prices are ready to rocket up

AVERAGE house prices in the West Midlands are on course to break the £200,000 barrier by the end of next year, says a new report.

Officials say it is a sign of the increasing strength in the region's economy with growth expected to almost double this year.

Experts at leading accountancy firm PwC – formerly PricewaterhouseCoopers – say the recovery in the wider UK economy could see interest rates starting to rise as early as the end of this year.

While that might cause a slight slowdown in the housing market, as some families fear higher mortgage repayments, PwC is still predicting average house prices in the West Midlands could hit £210,000 by the end of next year. They could rise as high as £256,000 by 2020

It is a reflection of how the UK housing market has leapt back into life over the past 12 to 18 months with prices rising across the country.

House prices are expected to rise eight per cent in the West Midlands this year, up from £184,000 at the end of 2013.

Council to make an additional £4m of cuts

DUDLEY Council needs to make an extra £4 million of cuts this year to balance its books.

Finance bosses say the fresh cuts during the 2014/15 financial year will help them to deal with a greater shortfall in funding during the following three years.

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for finance, said "We are facing the deepest cuts to the council's budget in living memory.

"To manage this difficult situation as prudently as possible we are bringing forward planned cuts into this financial year. This protects council reserves and leaves us in a stronger position going forward."

By Heather Large

Some of the savings will be made by restructuring departments and increasing burial fees, which was approved in April.

Bankrupt

The council needs to save £30m over the next three years with 27 compulsory and 72 voluntary redundancies planned for this year. It follows the loss of 621 jobs from the council over the previous three years.

The council says the drop in Government funding had not been as bad as first feared.

Council leader David Sparks said: "The situation is at Dudley by 2016 we will have a gap of £30.2million between income and expenditure. We therefore have to take corrective action because we are determined we will not go bankrupt.

"We have had a exercise of looking at activities of council to see where we can make further savings. We have identified four million pounds out of this. It is from across the board at the council."

The budget approved in March resulted in a council tax freeze, which resulted in a £1.1m Government grant.

Rates for properties will remain the same with band D homes paying £1,272.67.

Cuts already identified include cuts to street cleaning, which will see residents being encouraged to hold their own litter picks, and plans to shorten the collection period for green waste to save £100,000.

The management of Kingswinford's Broadfield House Glass Museum could be transferred to a third party in a bid to trim £170,000 by 2015/16. There are proposals to save up to £581,000 by reducing road construction and resurfacing.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the council's Conservatives, said: "In one breath the Labour council is telling us they are financially better off than they had predicated and yet decide to bring forward £4m worth of additional cuts. This is completely bizarre."

Taxpayers paying out convict compensation

TAXPAYERS are paying out £138,000 a year in compensation to convicted criminals attacked in prison – sparking anger from a Black Country MP who unearthed the figure.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has received figures from Parliament which show settlements for victims of jail assaults over the past four years came to a total £552,000.

Notable awards include Milly Dowler's killer Levi Bellfield, who received £4,500 in April following an assault. Others to receive money include Moors murderer Ian Brady and Soham murderer Ian Huntley. These figures come after reports of overcrowded and under-staffed prisons coincided with a 25 per cent rise in the number of assaults in jail. Mr Austin said: "Decent law-abiding families will be shocked to discover services they rely on are being cut back and families are being hit with the bedroom tax, while the Government is letting compensation for criminals go up every year."

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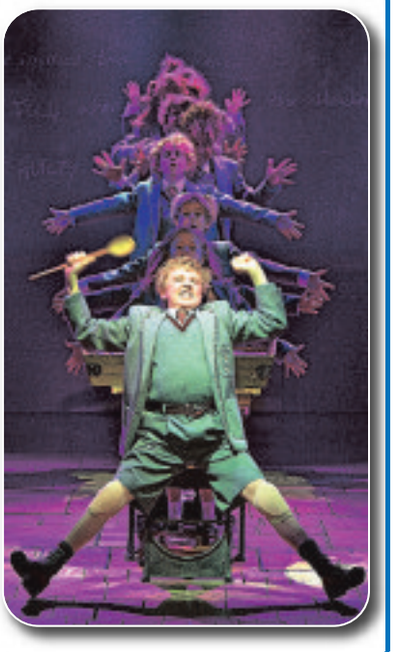

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MP joins charity climb in memory of campaigner

Walkers MP Ian Austin, Steve Waltho, Dave Tyler, Shaz Saleem and Adam Aston at the Bissell memorial

AN annual climb of Ben Nevis is being launched to honour a celebrated peace campaigner and raise charity funds.

A group of walkers including Dudley North MP Ian Austin will take on the gruelling trek on August 6.

He will be joined by the mayor's consort Councillor Adam Aston, deputy mayor Councillor Steve Waltho and armed forces champion Councillor Dave Tyler.

Christian peace campainger Bert Bissell, who died aged 96 in 1998, a probation officer, lived in Selborne Road, Dudley, and had founded the Young Men's Bible Class at Vicar Street. He climbed Ben Nevis in Scotland on VJ Day in 1945 and many times afterwards, constructing a Peace Cairn at its summit. There is a monument to Mr Bissell at Coronation Gardens opposite the Council House.

Mr Bissell was a friend of the Austin family and all funds raised will go to the Mayor's charities (Action Heart and Guide Dogs), the children's unit at Russells Hall, local Royal British Legion and Black Country Fast Aid for ambulances. See www.bertbissell memorialwalk.co.uk for more details.

Bert Bissell — erected a peace cairn

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More than 700 under 18s accused of child sex abuse

ALMOST 1,000 under 18s were accused of sexual offences against other children in the Midlands in the last two years, new figures reveal.

The youngest perpetrator was aged 10 and the youngest victim was aged under one, figures from the NSPCC show.

It comes as it was revealed more than 8,000 under 18s across England and Wales were accused of sexual offences against other children over two years.

In total in the West Midlands 719 cases in the West Midlands and a further 91 cases in Staffordshire where the youngest perpetrator was aged five, and the youngest victim just four.

In West Mercia, police recorded 148 cases, with the youngest perpetrator was aged three. The figures have been obtained through a Freedom of Information request by the charity.

By Lisa O'Brien

The NSPCC claims up to two thirds of contact sexual abuse on children is committed by other young people. But they say this kind of behaviour can be turned around if caught early.

It has a harmful sexual behaviour service called Turn the Page, which they say is already showing success in helping young offenders change their ways.

Pornography

Sandra McNair, NSPCC regional head of service, said: "It's deeply concerning that thousands of children are committing sexual offences, including serious assaults and rape. For very young children, such as those of primary school age or younger, we have to question the environment in which they are growing up in that has led to them behaving in this way.

"We also know that for many older children pornography is now part of life. Easy access to hard core, degrading and often violent videos on the internet is warping young people views of what is normal or acceptable behaviour. It is also feeding into 'sexting' where teenagers are creating and distributing their own videos and images that are illegal and have led to prison sentences."

But she insisted children were not beyond help.

"If we act quickly and children receive therapy such as that provided by the NSPCC's 'Turn the Page' service we can stop them becoming adult sex offenders," she added. "Most importantly, their victims need support to overcome what has happened to them. Sexual offences, whether committed by another child or an adult, can have lifelong consequences."

Childline can be contacted on 0800 1111 or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

Call for ban on Rolf books and CDs at libraries

THE works of disgraced entertainer Rolf Harris will remain freely available to borrow from libraries in some areas of the Black Country after council bosses refused to pull them from the shelves.

Paedophile Harris was jailed for five years and nine months having been found guilty of committing a string of sex attacks against young girls.

Many of his books and CDs line the shelves of libraries across the region and some council bosses have provoked anger by refusing to ditch the 84-year-old's work. Books include his 2002 autobiography Can You Tell What It Is Yet? and the 2010 best seller he wrote about his dog, Buster Fleabags.

A Bilston Library user, who asked not to be named, said he was 'disgusted and outraged' after seeing a book by Harris in his local library on Mount Pleasant.

Councillor Elias Mattu, Wolverhampton City Council leisure boss, said the authority had no plans to remove books featuring Rolf Harris.

Another outraged library user, Chris Dyke, came across a copy of Harris' Best of Rolf Harris CD at Dudley Library.

"It is an absolute disgrace," said the 40-year-old health and safety officer.

Councillor Hilary Bills, Dudley libraries boss, said items Harris' autobiography and a CD would remain available in borough libraries, but one children's fiction title would be removed from shelves.

Solar deal — Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan

President is the key to deal that will help victims of a fraudster

A FRAUDSTER who duped property owners out of more than £150,000 has been given one final chance to pay back his victims — but it depends on a deal being approved by Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan

Mark Ware, aged 50, targeted homeowners, including residents in Stourbridge and Hagley, as part of his fraud which involved a total of £157,995. Customers complaints to Central England Tradings Standards after handing over money for building projects on their homes that were not completed.

Having initially denied two counts of fraudulent trading and three counts of VAT fraud, Ware admitted the offices after a trial got underway in April.

Birmingham Crown Court was told last month that Ware was negotiating a multi-million pound contract to be signed by the President of Nigeria Goodluck Jonathan.

At the court last week Judge Mary Stacey delayed sentencing Ware, of Newick Avenue, Sutton Coldfield, after being told he was still to receive cash from the contract.

Giving evidence on oath at a previous hearing, Ware's new boss Andrew McPherson, of Renewables Trading Company, said Ware had clinched a deal with the Nigerian Government worth £335 million to supply solar panels. If it goes ahead, Ware would earn £2m.

By Alex Ross

At last week's hearing, Mr Martin Butterworth, defending, said despite a contract being signed by an 'intermediary company', the first stage of payment had still not been received.

He handed Judge Stacey a copy of the contract but would not discuss it in open court due to its 'commercial sensitivity'. He said: "The money has not been received but it is expected and I am seeking further opportunity for Mr Ware to make payment to those who have lost by being given a further opportunity to receive the initial payment.

Custody

"The alternative will be he will go into custody, he will lose his job, the injured parties will not get their money."

Judge Stacey adjourned sentencing until September 2 and asked Ware's legal team to begin looking at compensation for his victims. She added: "We were told you were confident that your ship would come in and it has not."

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Firm fined after boy's head was stuck in gate

A FIRM has been fined after an eight-year-old boy's head got stuck in an automated school gate.

Oliver Mincher was on his way out of Pedmore CE Primary School with his father on September 25, 2012, when the gate closed on him, causing bruising to his head and ear.

Leicester-based Access Control Solutions Ltd has now been fined £3,300 over the incident following a court hearing.

At Dudley Crown Court last week Oliver's father Dan Bansal described the incident as 'dreadful'. He said: "You don't send your children to school and expect them to be injured. I was shocked. He ran off in front of me and I called to him to tell him to wait, as past the gate is a public area. He stopped in the gateway to look at me. It hit his shoulder and before I knew where I was he was screaming at the top of his voice."

Mr Bansal said he had to use all of his force to try to get Oliver out of the gate. After a few seconds staff inside the school saw what was happening and pressed the release button. He added: "Oliver is OK now, he talks about it and it gives him nightmares sometimes."

Prosecuting solicitor Mrs Sarah Palfreyman, on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive, said there was no safety trip fitted to the gate despite this having been identified as a risk

She said: "The guard they said would be fitted wasn't fitted. The gate there wasn't the gate they expected it to be, so the guard they had did not fit and no guard was fitted."

Speaking on behalf of the company, Mr Tom Panton said it was a matter of 'absolute dismay' that the company found itself in court. He said: "This has never happened before, nothing ever even remotely like it."

Nightmares — Oliver Mincher, aged 10, is pictured with his father Dan Bansal

He explained that the intention had always been to fit the proper safety measures to the gate but that it was a "source of some embarrassment that the company can't narrow down precisely why intention didn't match reality"".

Mr Panton also said the company has now checked the qualifications of its engineers, and sent all of them on a specialist course about automated systems, as well as 'beefing up' risk assessment and review procedures.

Magistrates fined the company £3,300, and ordered it to pay court costs of £773.

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£3m fire station to open next month

Councillor John Edwards and project manager Simon Shilton at the Haden Cross Community Fire Station

BUILDING work is gathering pace on a new multi-million pound fire station in the Black Country.

Work is on track for the £3 million station serving Halesowen and Cradley Heath to be open by the end of August to fire crews. Finishing touches are being made to the site, at the junction of Barrs Road and Halesowen Road, once site of former municipal buildings.

The history of the council buildings will be remembered with a plaque planned in commemoration to be put in place ahead of the grand opening.

Bosses say they wanted the building to have architecture fitting for a landmark site on a road used by thousands of motorists a month. Glass windows soar up from ground level at the entrance to the newly named Haden Cross Community Fire Station. Three bays have been created, for the main fire crew and a smaller response vehicle.

£5,000 reward to catch dog killer

A MILLIONAIRE businessman is offering a £5,000 reward for help catch the person or people behind the 'barbaric' killing of a dog found hanging from a fence near a primary school.

Steve Dale, aged 59, said he was 'shocked and horrified' on hearing about the young male Staffie Mastiff cross dog discovered dead close to Kates Hill Primary School in Dudley.

A passer-by found the young dog tied to a railing 15 ft above street level in Bishop Close — sparking outrage in the community this week.

Mr Dale, who owns businesses and lives in Prestbury in Cheshire, said: "I saw the picture in the paper and I was absolutely disgusted. It's barbaric and disgusting someone would do this.

"I'm a dog lover and thought I can I help, so I came up with the idea of offering a reward for anyone who gives information leading to the convictions of the person or people responsible. They deserve strong punishment for doing something like this. They need to be stopped."

The father-of-three is offering a £5,000 reward. He has four dogs.

Anyone with information should contact the RSCPA on 0300 123 8018 and quote 'Steve Dale reward'.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has also been offering a reward, of £250.

Boot sales raised in Commons

'INDUSTRIAL-SCALE' car boot sales could be debated in Parliament amid concerns they are causing traffic problems.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson claimed 'mismanagement' of car boot sales was impacting upon Himley, Shareshill and Featherstone.

Problems reported include congestion around the entrances and exits and visitors avoiding car park fees by parking on nearby streets and verges.

Calling for the debate in Parliament, the Tory MP said: "Residents in the villages of Himley, Shareshill and Featherstone are often blighted by industrial-scale car boot sales.

"May we have a debate in the House on the irresponsibility of the operators and the impact they are having on my constituents?"

Leader of the House Andrew Lansley said: "I will talk to the Department for Communities and Local Government to establish what opportunities local authorities have to ensure that car boot sales function in a way that is fair to local people." Mr Williamson added: "I am glad that we have a promise this issue will be raised with Ministers.

"I will also be meeting the planning minister in the near future to discuss this matter further.

"The majority of car boot sales cause no problems for anyone but sadly there are a few that create major difficulties."

Colin Turley, of Col's Car Boot off the Himley Bypass, said his sale had not had any problems for more than five years.

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Leader Valerie Jones with successors Nathan Sidwaway and Suzanne Jones

Pictured during a trip to the Black Country Living Museum in the 1980s

Valerie Jones front left with fellow scout leaders during training in the1980s

Scout Leader Valerie Jones pictured in 1983 with her son, Gavin. He's a scout leader himself now

Scout stalwart Val calls it a day after 32 years

A SCOUT leader with more than three decades of work in Dudley has hung up her neckerchief and woggle for the last time.

Second Lower Gornal's Scout Group leader Valerie Jones is stepping down from her position after more than 32 years.

The 62-year-old former cashier addressed the crowd of scouts and their families at the group's AGM, and wished them luck for the future before she was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a badge for long service within the scouting organisation.

Husband

The decision to retire from her position as group leader comes following the death of her husband Des to cancer last year. They both spent 32 years helping out at the group in Temple Street after seeing both their sons go through the ranks.

She said: "It was time for me to step

MEMORY LANE

By Tom Mason

down and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a scout leader. This is a job that requires you to give 100 per cent but since Des passed away I haven't been able to give that, and it wasn't fair on the group.

"I love children and it's wonderful to see them grow up and get their badges, progress and move on.

"I feel so proud when I see one of my former scouts who have gone on to be a policeman or when they bring their own children here to learn what they learned."

Valerie first joined the group in 1983 when her son Gavin became a Cub when he was eight. He is still with the Scouts as a leader at the age of 41, .

Back in '83 she was asked to help out and soon became a dedicated helper.

"I ended up being there for 32 years," she said. "I was assistant helper first, then I became a cub leader, then a scout leader, then assistant group scout leader and then full group scout leader, which is how I am retiring now.

"I started because of the children, getting involved with them and seeing what they get out of it, to see them get something out of life. But then I just stuck with it because I enjoyed it."

She particularly enjoyed the trips to camps abroad, such as Switzerland and Paris.

"I remember one time we went to France on the coach, and there were two group leaders with us who were older ladies. They asked the driver is he could get the coach as close to the beach as he could, as they couldn't walk far. Then we got stuck. We were there for hours with trucks coming to try to move us and we ended up on he front page of the local paper."

She added: "I have seen a lot change. Where once the boys would be given a piece of wood to whittle or allowed to climb trees now we have to fill out a risk assessment but maybe that's for the best."

Valerie proudly pictured in uniform, she says: 'I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a scout leader'

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Caitlin builds a girl in her own image

REVIEWS BOOKS

by Leon Burakowski

CAITLIN Moran is at pains in the preface of her new novel to stress that it is a work of fiction, even though her hero Johanna — like Caitlin — comes from a large family on a Wolverhampton council estate and gets her big break writing for the music press.

The early part of **How To Build A Girl** (Ebury, hardback, £14.99) reads like her flawed sit-com Raised By Wolves rather than the sparky, witty ladette feminism of her best-seller How To Be A Woman. It is actually her second novel having written published fantasy The Chronicles of Narmo when 15.

She hits her stride in rude and rumbustious, self-deprecating style and, like her best journalism, the frivolous fun has moments of insight. But if you have read her Wolverhampton memories in her non-fiction, it is hard not to see character and author as one.

William Boyd is the latest author to revive James Bond and he does a good job in **Solo** (Vintage, paperback, £7.99). This is Ian Fleming's Bond rather than the movie versions. He drinks too much, smokes too much, eyes every attractive woman as a possible conquest, and has a cruel, vengeful streak. We meet Bond celebrating his 45th birthday in 1969 with fine dining and wine at The Dorchester, reminiscing about his D-Day experiences. Boyd gives this adventure an agreeable retro feel as M sends 007 on a mission to a African civil war with oil revenues up for grabs. In a nice touch for devotees, the author adds a few tasty extras like the recipe for Bond's favourite salad dressing, probably shaken not stirred.

Author and journalist Caitlin Moran

How To Build A Girl published by Ebury

Another resurrected sleuth this summer is the aristocratic Peter Wimsey, who finds his elevation to a dukedom embroils him in a row between Oxford college academics in **The Late Scholar** (Hodder & Stoughton, paperback, £8.99). Things turn nasty when the squabble over an ancient manuscript leads to murder akin to one that featured in a novel by his mystery writer wife Harriet. Jill Paton Walsh does Dorothy L Sayers proud in this delightfully old fashioned whodunnit.

Horror thriller **The Girl With All The Gifts** (Orbit, hardback, £12.99) is a tense and poignant post-apocalypse tale with a tender strand of maternal love at its heart. With sudden moments of gory violence, M R Carey (who writes for comics, including mighty Marvel) has created a real page-turner blending the best elements from 28 Days Later and Let The Right One In. After a bleak and powerful beginning, the story of special little girl Melanie becomes a tale of survival on the road as a band of survivors aim for home through a English countryside where lurking dangers include terrifying zombie-like Hungries and lawless Junkers.

Chiller **The Voices** (Pan, paperback, £7.99) recalls the long hot summer of 1976. Author F R Tallis is clearly a fantasy fan, making one of his characters a composer with the BBC Radiophonic Workshop, referencing Hammer horror and Star Wars. In this slow-burning haunted house story a family find strange voices leaking through electrical devices in their big Victorian house.

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Sporting pride of the Black Country

THE Black Country is firmly on the sporting map thanks to wheelchair tennis player Jordanne Whiley, the leader of a sporting partnership has said.

The Halesowen-based athlete won the Wimbledon Wheelchair Doubles with her playing partner Yui Kamiji of Japan.

Last November, she scooped the Black Country Disabled Sportsperson of the Year at the Black Country Sport and Physical Activity Awards.

Dr Raj Joshi, chair of the Black Country BeActive Partnership, which runs the award scheme, said it shows the talent in the area. He said: "Jordanne's victory shows that ability coupled with dedication leads to the highest achievements."

This year's awards are in November, visit www.blackcountrybeactive.co.uk

Hospital statistics for gunshot and stab wounds

A HOSPITAL trust has treated more than half the victims of all stab and gunshot wounds in the Black Country and Staffordshire in the last three years, new figures show.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell General Hospital in West Bromwich and City Hospital at Winson Green, handled 358 stabbing incidents and 15 gunshot patients from 2011 to 2014.

By Adam Thompson

In all there were 640 stab victims and 62 gunshot patients at hospitals in the Black Country and Staffordshire during that period. The figures came from a Freedom of Information request by the Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star and includes data from Wolverhampton's New Cross, Dudley's Russells Hall, Walsall Manor, Stafford and Cannock Chase hospitals.

Russells Hall Hospital treated the largest number of gunshot wounds since 2011 with 16, closely followed by Stafford Hospital (15) and Sandwell and West Birmingham Trust (15).

Chief executive of Sandwell and West Birmingham hospitals Toby Lewis said: "The number of patients we treat with these injuries represent a tiny percentage of the total number of patients treated."

Christina's mother backs knife bin

Christina's parents left at the launch of the knife amnesty bin in Edgbaston

THE mother of stabbing victim Christina Edkins urged people to hand in their weapons as she unveiled a new knife amnesty bin.

The Halesowen schoolgirl's parents Kathleen and Jason Harris spoke publicly for the first time since the 16-year-old's death last year. She was stabbed on a bus in Birmingham while travelling to Leasowes High School. Her killer, mentally ill Phillip Simelane, of Walsall, was sentenced to an indeterminate hospital order.

Miss Edkins' parents launched a knife surrender bin at Tesco Fiveways in Edgbaston, close to where Christina died. Mrs Harris said: "I don't think people realise the effect that knife crime has on people.

"It destroys not only the victim's parents but their family and friends as well. We can never have our Christina back but if this bin can even help one person to get rid of one knife, and save one life, then it will have been worthwhile. I would like to make people think more about knife crime, not just young people but adults as well. Be sure you are aware if your child is carrying a knife and explain to them what the consequences could be."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Get pumping at the leisure centre

A TONING and conditioning class for men and women has been added to the Bodypump sessions at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre.

The new hour-long session will run on Fridays from 5pm. Sessions also run every Wednesdays at 6.30pm, Friday at 10.50am and Sundays at 5pm and cost £4.70.

A 50 per cent discount is available to Options+ leisure discount holders and it is included in the Options Lifestyle membership scheme.

Lemurs no match for zoo keepers

DUDLEY Zoo's appeal for unwanted tennis racquets proved an ace when players served up the goods during Wimbledon fortnight.

Zoo keepers made the unusual request for the old sporting equipment to help primate keepers catch lemurs to have their health checks. Staff at the Castle Hill site improvise with racquets where strings are replaced by a pillowcase.

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Discover how the tower was defended via the interactive displays and hear the legendary beefeaters who guard the tower walls, telling tales of the unlucky few who passed through Traitors Gate,

A visit is also made to the Imperial War Museum in central London. To celebrate the anniversary of the First World War, the museum will open new galleries and a redesigned atrium telling stories of the many men and women who lived and served on the home and fighting front. Admire the world's largest collection of Victoria crosses, see the biggest display of British First World art in almost 100 years and for young historians, the family exhibition Horrible Histories® is a must.

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Sky full of balloons in a tribute to Danni, 14

Friends, family, fellow pupils and the community pay tribute to Danni with a massive balloon release

HUNDREDS of yellow balloons were released in memory of schoolgirl Danni Burrows, who last her battle against cancer aged 14.

Crowds of family, friends, family and the community gathered on the fields near to her home last week to pay their respects to the teenager from Lower Gornal who died on July 5

Messages were attached to many of the balloons in tribute to the Ellowes Hall School pupil.

The talented dancer was diagnosed with cancer a few months ago and was undergoing treatment at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Other tributes included floral tributes in the school's grounds and a dedicated Facebook page with hundreds of messages of support and remembrance.

Abby Burrows, Danni's cousin, was one of the people to post on the web page,saying: "God has gained a beautiful angel."

Friends and family have been planning to hold a number of fundraising events for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Popular pupil Danni Burrows

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Wheel right by the Gallagher brothers

MANCHESTER indie rock band Twisted Wheel will be joined by three local acts on stage in Wolverhampton next month.

The band, who scored minor success with single Lucy The Castle in 2009, will be supported by Two & Eights, The Rimes and The Assist at their gig at The Slade Rooms on August 30.

In their fives years since their debut album, which gained them Oasis brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher as fans, Twisted Wheel have received critical acclaim and packed out gigs across the country.

Their second album, Do It Again, was released in 2012.

Tickets cost £9.90 from Midlands Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk.

Scot rockers at the Slade Rooms

SCOTTISH rock band Twilight Sad will perform at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton tomorrow night

The trio from Kilsyth have released three albums, the most recent was No One Can Ever Know in 2012.

Tickets are priced £12.10 available from Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Meanwhile, all-female band The Amorettes play the Broad Street venue tonight (£5.50) and Black Country hard rock band Liberty Lies, whose debut album is due soon, play the venue next Friday.

Dudley's EofE boys make bid for stardom with a nationwide tour

It's creepy and kooky family fun

THEY'RE creepy and they're kooky — they're The Addams Family and they've taken up residence in Brierley Hill.

Fans will be be able to see Morticia, Gomez and co when the younger members of Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company stage the Broadway musical version of the hit American horror comedy The Addams Family.

A cast of 22 aged 10 to 21 will perform the hit show at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in Bank Street from from tonight to Saturday.

Co-ordinator Jo Gresswell said: "The show is a little different from the film because Wednesday is all grown up and had a boyfriend but it still provides all of the same comedy.

"We are delighted because we are the first to premiere it in the Midlands."

Tickets are £8 available on 0845 658 8095.

The young cast of The Addams Family get ready for some explosive fun at Brierley Hill

THEY tasted fame as a support act for supergroup McBusted and now Dudley-based rock band EofE are stepping out on their own with their first nationwide headline tour.

EofE's 13-date Unleashed tour which will kick off this November and will see the Black Country boys having a West Midlands homecoming gig at The Institute in Digbeth, Birmingham, on November 15.

Having impressed more than 380,000 fans while supporting pop stars McBusted (the McFly-Busted supergroup) on a 32- date arena tour this year, including several concerts at Birmingham LG Arena, the group is now stepping out of the support band shadows.

Momentum

The group was formed three years ago and is made up of lead vocalist Tom Harris, 17, from Netherton, Dan Bremner, 19, from Gornal, Luke Bradley, 18, also from Gornal, and drummer Nicky Waters, 25 who is Northumberland.

Lead singer Tom Harris: "Our own tour is something we have always wanted to do and now is the perfect time because we want to keep the momentum created by the McBusted tour."

The former Hillcrest Community College student added: "It was surreal to play an arena tour so early in our career.

"We loved the whole tour but it was sentimental to play at Birmingham's LG Arena, giving all our local fans the chance to see us doing the best thing we have ever done."

EofE in action at the LG Arena

The singer is spending summer at the family home in Church Road.

He said: "I am still coming down from the tour but I missed my mum's cooking.

"By November we'll have loads of new material, plus all the songs we played on the McBusted tour, so will be putting on a much bigger show."

Go underground for Victorian chills

FANS of gothic horror can look forward to a treat when Dudley Canal Trust's popular Singing Cavern hosts an evening of chills this weekend.

Local theatre company Don't Go Into The Cellar celebrate great ghost and horror stories from the Victorian and Edwardian eras in their Morbid Curiosities event, including original stories and adaptations of classics by Poe, Stoker and Conan Doyle.

The evening starts at 7pm on Saturday and tickets are £10.80, which includes a boat trip in — and out — of the cavern in one of Dudley Canal Trust's special electric boats.

Tickets are available from the Dudley Canal Trust trips offices or on 0121 557 6265.

Cavern residents support movie star

THE resident band at Liverpool's legendary Cavern Club have been named as the support act for action movie star Steven Seagal's Black Country blues shows.

Xander and the Peace Pirates, who play at the Matthew Street venue where The Beatles started , will support the guitar-playing film legend at his shows at The Robin 2 in Bilston on Monday and Tuesday.

Tickets cost £27.50 in advance or £30 on the door.

For more information, visit www.therobin.co.uk website or call the Mount Pleasant venue on 01902 401211.

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& R&B hits
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10pm till late... £3 admission fee

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Saturday 19th July
Big Disco Night
with Top D.J.
plus! Lots of drinks promotions...

Thursday 24th July
(and every Thursday)
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with a "Drag Artist and D.J. Phil
Men and Women Welcome

Friday 25th July
(and every Friday)
"Spend Sexy Friday Night"
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CHOICE

Alex Jones, Fred MacAulay and Ricky Wilson

Live at Edinburgh Castle (BBC1, 8.30pm)
Ahead of Wednesday's opening ceremony for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Alex Jones presents this star-studded concert in front of one of Scotland's most famous landmarks. Edinburgh Castle is the backdrop as a wide range of musical acts perform on stage, including soul legend Smokey Robinson, indie rockers Kaiser Chiefs, 1980s survivors Culture Club, torch singer Paloma Faith, pop-rock band OneRepublic, rap duo Rizzle Kicks and 2012 X Factor finalist Ella Henderson. For those who prefer something a little more classical, the line-up also includes operatic quartet Il Divo, mezzo Katherine Jenkins and West End star Alfie Boe. The music will be interspersed with comedy, courtesy of Bill Bailey and Fred MacAulay.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Golf: The Open Championship. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Golf: The Open Championship. Live coverage from Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake. **5.25** Formula 1: German Grand Prix – Qualifying. Suzi Perry presents action from the battle for pole position in the 10th round of the season at the Hockenheimring. The German Grand Prix alternates hosting duties each year with the Nurburgring, and was last held here in 2012, when Fernando Alonso claimed the position at the front of the starting grid, and went on to win the race. With commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard.

6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 A Question of Sport: Super Saturday. Jason Manford hosts the game show, with singer Pixie Lott, presenter Helen Skelton, comedian and actor Terry Alderton and Citizen Khan star Adil Ray taking part. Last in the series.

7.40 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs of contestants answer two-part questions for the chance to play for the money in the safe, with the amount depending on how much they have earned in the previous rounds. This week's contestants are two best friends, a mother and son and a couple who claim to be the perfect pairing. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Kate Garraway.

8.30 Live at Edinburgh Castle. Alex Jones presents this concert to celebrate the Commonwealth Games, featuring Kaiser Chiefs, Smokey Robinson, Culture Club, Paloma Faith, Katherine Jenkins and OneRepublic.

10.30 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Film: Shanghai Knights. (2003) Chinese sheriff Chon Wang and reformed bandit Roy O'Bannon head for Victorian London on the trail of a murderer. Their investigation leads them to a nefarious Englishman plotting to kill the royal family – but fortunately Chon's talented sister comes to their aid. Martial arts comedy sequel, with Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson, Aidan Gillen and Fann Wong.

12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10 Film:** The Falcon Takes Over. (1942) **7.15 Film:** The Falcon's Brother. (1942) **8.15** The Living Planet. (R) **9.10** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **9.40** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **10.10** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **11.40** Food & Drink. (R) **12.10** Rick Stein's Spain. (R) **1.10** Peter O'Toole: Talking Pictures. **2.00 Film:** Becket. (1964) Historical drama, starring Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole. **4.25** Hive Alive. (R) **5.25** Golf: The Open Championship. Live coverage from Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake.

7.45 Flog It! The team heads to Tatton Park in Cheshire, where Anita Manning values 50 silver ingots and Mark Stacey finds a cigarette case brought back from the First World War. David Fletcher is enthused about a Victorian music box in need of restoration, while Paul Martin visits Liverpool to explore the role played by people from the city in the Battle of the Atlantic during the Second World War.

8.30 Dad's Army. Warden Hodges challenges Captain Mainwaring's platoon to a cricket match. Featuring a guest appearance by former England and Yorkshire fast bowler Fred Trueman. (R)

9.00 The Men Who Made Us Spend. Jacques Peretti examines how fear remains one of the most powerful drivers of people's spending, hearing from a consumer psychologist about how the brain is much more responsive to negative than positive stimuli. He also meets experts who have helped manufacturers make billions of pounds from human anxieties and insecurities, including French anthropologist Clotaire Rapaille, whose insights have aided companies' efforts to sell everything from SUVs to cigarettes. In Las Vegas, he mingles with doctors and businessmen attending a global conference aimed at promoting ways to stay youthful – and challenges them to justify their claims.

10.00 Film: Zodiac: The Director's Cut. (2007) Fact-based crime thriller following the hunt for a serial killer who terrorised San Francisco in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Robert Downey Jr.

12.35 Film: Keeping Up with the Steins. (2006) **2.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **12.30** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **1.30** Dinner Date. (R) **2.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.15 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure. (1989) Time-travel comedy, starring Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter. **5.00 Film:** Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. (2004) Comedy adventure sequel, with Sarah Michelle Gellar.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 You've Been Framed! Surreal comedy from Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' home videos. (R)

7.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Breakfast TV presenter Lorraine Kelly, former England cricketer Phil Tufnell and Coronation Street actor Ryan Thomas (builder Jason Grimshaw) use knowledge, skill and tactics to win turns on the arcade-style token-pushing machine. Dropping counters down a choice of four chutes, the celebrity contestants hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf – and the more they collect, the better their chances of scooping the £20,000 prize for a charity of their choice. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard.

8.30 Film: Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace. (1999) Jedi Knights Obi-Wan Kenobi and Qui-Gon Jinn are instructed to protect Queen Amidala when her planet is invaded. Escorting her away from danger, they meet gifted youngster Anakin Skywalker, who seems ideally suited to join the pair's order – but is unaware of just how powerful he could become. Sci-fi prequel, starring Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman and Ray Park.

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 Film: Ocean's Eleven. (2001) A suave ex-convict assembles a gang of crooks to help him pull off the daring robbery of three casinos in Las Vegas. Crime comedy, with George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts.

1.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.05** Deal or No Deal. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Tomorrow People. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury, Newmarket and Market Rasen. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Hypnotherapist Russell Stubbs hosts the final party in Crewe and Nantwich, Cheshire, hoping to impress his guests with a rock-night theme. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.05 The Restoration Man. Architect George Clarke joins Keith McIntyre and his wife Sheena as they seek to convert a listed, Thomas Telford-designed church on the Outer Hebridean island of Berneray into a holiday home and artists' retreat. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Mimi and Andre d'Costa, who have moved to the Kent countryside to bring up their two children. They have a large plot of land and want to build a house that will be functional enough to serve their young family, but will also blend in with the beautiful landscape. They turn to architect Nick Eldridge, who designs a simple modular home using state-of-the-art materials and technologies. (R)

9.00 Film: Rise of the Planet of the Apes. (2011) Premiere. A scientist carries out genetic experiments on apes, hoping to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. A chimpanzee used in the tests develops superior intelligence and becomes outraged at the human race's cruel treatment of his kind, forming his fellow primates into an army to overthrow mankind. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Franco, Freida Pinto and Andy Serkis.

11.00 Film: Predator 2. (1990) A tough cop investigating a series of gruesome murders discovers it is the work of an alien that kills for sport. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Danny Glover and Bill Paxton.

1.05 Utopia. (R) **3.05** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.15** River Cottage Veg. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.10** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **11.10** Big Brother: Eviction. (R) **12.40** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **1.05** NCIS: The Port-to-Port Killer. (R) **2.05** NCIS: The Port-to-Port Killer. (R) **3.05 Film:** Hell Boats. (1970) Second World War drama, starring James Franciscus. **4.55 Film:** Operation Pacific. (1951) Second World War adventure, starring John Wayne.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the third day of the Second Test at Lord's, as the five-match series continued.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Holiday Love Rats Exposed. Documentary telling the stories of Brits who have been conned out of tens of thousands of pounds and left broken-hearted by people preying on single holiday-makers looking for love. Jeannette was swept off her feet by Rudiger in Sorrento, Italy, and over the next nine months spent £20,000 on him, only to discover he was wanted in several countries for duping women. Jane met Nigerian Michael in a Gambian nightclub and during their brief marriage gave him so much money she ended up bankrupt – unaware he was already in a long-term relationship. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants, who share their diary-room thoughts on their recently departed friend – or enemy. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. The stories of Roma people who moved to the UK and are now surviving on benefits, including a man who lost both legs in an accident when he was seven. (R)

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Rylan Clark and Iain Lee present analysis of the housemates' behaviour, with input from psychologists and body-language experts.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Webcam Girls: At Your Service. (R) **4.00** Great Scientists. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes – Not in 3D **7.15** Don't Tell the Bride **8.15 Film:** The Proposal (2009) **10.00** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.45** Russell Howard's Good News **2.15** Badults **3.45** Great Movie Mistakes – Not in 3D **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger **8.00** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Nat King Cole: Afraid of the Dark **12.15** The Sky at Night **12.45** The Final Frontier? A Horizon Guide to the Universe **1.45** Lost Land of the Tiger **2.45** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **3.45** Close

ITV2
11.40 Take Me Out **12.50** I Wanna Marry "Harry" **1.50** The Only Way Is Essex **3.20 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.10** You've Been Framed Rides Again! **6.10** You've Been Framed! **6.45 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **9.00 Film:** American Pie (1999) **10.55 Film:** The Matrix Revolutions (2003) **1.20** The Magaluf Weekender **2.15** Crazy Beaches **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.20 Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **2.35** Inspector Morse **4.50** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** A Touch of Frost **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Tour de France Highlights **12.00** Tour de France Live. Stage 14 from Grenoble to Risoul. **4.30** Highway Patrol **4.55** Alias Smith and Jones **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00 Film:** Dr No (1962) **10.20 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **12.35** Police, Camera, Action! **1.05** Tour de France Highlights **2.05** Alias Smith and Jones **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.30** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Rude(ish) Tube **12.00** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.00** Goodbye How I Met Your Mother **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The 100 **9.00 Film:** Beverly Hills Cop III (1994) **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.10** Rude Tube **1.15** 2 Broke Girls **1.45** How I Met Your Mother **2.35** The Ricky Gervais Show **4.00** Glee **4.45** Desperate Housewives

Film4
11.00 That Riviera Touch (1966) **1.00** Romancing the Stone (1984) **3.05** Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971) **5.00** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) **6.55** X-Men: The Last Stand (2006) **9.00** Bridesmaids (2011) **11.25** Shallow Grave (1994) **1.15** The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (2006) **3.10** Close

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CHOICE

Kerrie Hayes

The Mill
(Channel 4, 8pm)
The catchphrase 'trouble at t'mill' may have been coined back in 1967 on the early John Thaw series Inheritance, but it might as well have been created purely for this show, which began last year – for not only is it centred around a mill, but there's also frequently trouble at it. As the 19th-century period drama returns for a second run, that trouble takes the form of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, which has led to desperate economic migrants from the South arriving at Quarry Bank in search of jobs. The workers in Styal village are concerned that the arrival of these impoverished families will drive down everyone's wages, and the impact of the new legislation hits home for apprentice Esther.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Fast Tales. **11.30** Golf: The Open Championship. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Golf: The Open Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces further live coverage of the fourth and final day at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, where the 143rd staging of the Major concludes. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Phil Parkin, Maureen Madill, Scott Drummond and Frank Nobilo, and reports by Dan Walker. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

7.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.20 Countryfile. The team helps John Craven mark 25 years on the show with items close to his heart, touching on organic farming, endangered species and the joy of driving through the countryside.

8.10 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team pay the second of two visits to Wentworth Woodhouse stately home near Rotherham in South Yorkshire. Items include a special medal awarded for kindness to pit ponies, a valuable painted Georgian tea tray, a bible that belonged to Arthur Wharton – one of the first black professional footballers – and a rare Faberge egg, which proves to be a lucky gift.

9.10 Seven Wonders of the Commonwealth. A visit to natural beauty spots across the Commonwealth, including Milford Sound in New Zealand, Africa's Namib desert, Victoria Falls in Zambia and Fingal's Cave in Scotland.

10.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.35 Murdered by My Boyfriend. Drama about a teenage girl's romance with an older man who begins to dominate every aspect of her life. Georgina Campbell and Royce Pierreson star. Previously shown on BBC3.

11.35 Film: The Greatest Game Ever Played. (2005) A determined American working-class golfer overcomes social prejudice and cynicism to compete in the 1913 US Open. Fact-based drama, starring Shia LaBeouf and Stephen Dillane.

1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40 Film:** A Walk in the Sun. (1945) **8.30** Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) **9.30** Countryfile. (R) **10.30** Golf: The Open Championship. **11.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **1.00** Rick Stein's Spain. (R) **2.00** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **2.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Lifeline. **3.40** Songs of Praise. (R) **4.15 Film:** Grand Prix. (1966) Motor racing drama, starring James Garner.

7.00 Formula 1: German Grand Prix Highlights. Suzi Perry presents action from the 10th round of the season, which was staged at the Hockenheimring for the first time since 2012. Fernando Alonso was the victor on that occasion, but seems unlikely to challenge again given the dominance of Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg this season. Hamilton has won this race twice, once on this track and once at the Nurburgring. With commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard.

8.30 Dragons' Den. New series. Evan Davis presents the return of the business ideas contest, with Duncan Bannatyne having announced that this series will be his last. He is joined once again by Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden, Kelly Hoppen and Piers Linney to evaluate a selection of pitches, including a toe-tapping routine that sees the Dragons up on their feet. Plus, Deborah goes for a slightly unconventional joyride and Peter thinks outside the frame with an offer the Den has never seen before. Will anyone be able to secure that all-important investment from the panellists?

9.30 The Lancaster: Britain's Flying Past. John Sergeant examines the history of the Avro Lancaster bomber and examines how it was at the heart of nearly every vital British aeronautical mission of the Second World War.

10.30 Mock the Week. Ed Byrne, Milton Jones, Russell Kane and Zoe Lyons join regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons. (R)

11.00 Film: The Quiet American. (2002) A British journalist in 1950s Vietnam befriends an American aid worker, but suspects his new acquaintance is not all he appears to be. Drama, with Michael Caine and Brendan Fraser.

12.35 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.30** Holby City. (R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **1.35 Film:** Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm. (1973) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Donald Pleasence. **3.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Tipping Point. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000. (R)

8.00 Foyle's War. It's 1946 and although one war has ended, another is looming as the Iron Curtain falls across Europe. Foyle arrives home from America, where he is wanted in connection with a suspicious suicide, but MI5 offers him a way out. The agency suspects Britain's atomic research programme has been infiltrated and wants to recruit him to investigate a Soviet spy ring that could be at work in the heart of London. Detective drama, starring Michael Kitchen, with Honeysuckle Weeks, Ellie Haddington and Dylan Charles. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Testing Britain's Worst Drivers: Crash Course. Two of the nation's worst motorists come face to face with the consequences of their dangerous driving in a crash-test experiment. Jamie Theakston narrates. (R)

11.15 The Cube. Bubbly Teresa from Newcastle and family man Alan try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts. (R)

12.10 The Store. **2.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.10** Motorsport UK. **4.00** ITV Nightscreen. **4.15** Britain's Best Bakery. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** FIM World Superbike Championship. **7.30** British GT Championship. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.30** Anniversary Games. Coverage of the athletics meeting in central London. **4.05** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.40 Film:** Hugo. (2011) Premiere. Family adventure, starring Asa Butterfield.

8.00 The Mill. New series. Return of the drama following the lives of factory staff in 19th-century England. Just four years have passed, but now the effects of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 are taking hold, and desperate economic migrants from the South are starting to turn up at Quarry Bank Mill in search of jobs. The workers in Styal village are concerned that the arrival of these impoverished families will drive down everyone's wages, and the impact of the new legislation hits home for apprentice Esther, who discovers the beggar in the mill yard is her own sister, Martha.

9.00 Child Genius. New series. Return of the documentary following gifted youngsters taking part in a competition organised in association with Mensa to find the UK's brightest young mind. In the first stage, the contenders face two gruelling rounds – advanced maths, where questions are beyond many adults' capability, and memory recall, in which they have to memorise and mentally navigate four zones of the London Underground map. Aliyah's psychologist parents have devised a special training programme to give the nine-year-old optimum brain power, while piano prodigy Curtis, who has already completed the first year of a university degree at the age of 10, has been put forward by his mother and manager Hayley.

10.00 Film: Love & Other Drugs. (2010) A cynical womanising sales rep for a pharmaceutical company falls in love with a waitress with Parkinson's disease. Romantic comedy drama, with Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway.

12.10 The Million Pound Drop. (R) **1.05 Film:** Lady Chatterley. (2006) **3.55** River Cottage Veg. (R) **4.50** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.05** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.05** Meerkat Manor. (R) **11.30** Access. (R) **11.35** Big Brother. (R) **12.35 Film:** Click. (2006) Comedy, starring Adam Sandler. **2.40 Film:** Lost in Space. (1998) Sci-fi adventure, starring William Hurt and Gary Oldman. **5.10 Film:** Big Momma's House. (2000) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fourth day of the Second Test at Lord's, as the five-match series continued.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 My Child Is a Monkey. There are more than 20,000 people in America registered as private primate owners and this documentary tells the stories of a few of those who have integrated the animals into their families and are treating them like children. Sean has just adopted an abused monkey and worries that his pregnant wife and two children may be under threat from the animal's wilder instincts.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks and bedroom chit-chat.

10.00 Film: The Book of Eli. (2010) A drifter in post-apocalyptic America battles a despot for control of a book believed to hold the key to mankind's future. Action adventure, with Denzel Washington and Gary Oldman.

12.15 Gangs & Guns: Caught on Camera. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Super Skyscrapers: Shanghai Tower. (R) **4.00** Great Scientists. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes **7.15 Film:** Shanghai Noon (2000) **9.00** Family Guy **10.45** People Just Do Nothing **11.15** Family Guy **1.05** People Just Do Nothing **1.35** Slum Survivors **2.30** Stacey Dooley in the USA: Kids in the Crossfire **3.30** People Just Do Nothing **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Narnia's Lost Poet: The Secret Lives and Loves of CS Lewis **8.00** Scotland's Art Revolution: The Maverick Generation **9.00** Rich Hall's California Stars **10.30** Born Lippy: Mark Lawson talks to Jo Brand **11.30** The Joy of the Guitar Riff **12.30** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **1.30** Rich Hall's California Stars **3.00** Scotland's Art Revolution: The Maverick Generation **4.00** Close

ITV2
12.40 America's Got Talent **3.20** The Very Best of You've Been Framed! **4.30 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **6.15 Film:** Cats & Dogs (2001) **8.00 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50 Film:** American Pie (1999) **12.45** TV OD **1.10** Fake Reaction **1.50** You've Been Framed: A-Z **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV Nightscreen

ITV3
11.15 A Touch of Frost **1.30** Inspector Morse **3.45 Film:** Housesitter (1992) **5.45** Inspector Morse **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** The Security Men **10.00 Film:** The Portrait of a Lady (1996) **12.55** William and Mary **1.50** Pie in the Sky **2.45** Judge Judy **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15** Emmerdale

ITV4
12.00 The Car Chasers **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Tour de France Live. Stage 15 from Tallard to Nimes. **4.30** Police, Camera, Action! **4.55** Magnum, PI **5.55** Kojak **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** Jaws 3 (1983) **11.00 Film:** Green Street (2005) **1.10** Tour de France Highlights **2.10** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.30** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 How I Met Your Mother **2.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.30** The Mindy Project **4.00** New Girl **4.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** The 100 **6.00** Rude(ish) Tube **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** The Golden Compass (2007) **10.10** The Big Bang Theory **11.10** Rude Tube **12.10** Ben Earl: Trick Artist **1.15** Rules of Engagement **2.15** The Cleveland Show **3.20** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Virgin Queen (1955) **1.00** Mirror Mirror (2012) **3.05** The Last Mimzy (2007) **4.55** 17 Again (2009) **6.50** Definitely, Maybe (2008) **9.00** Robin Hood (2010) **11.40** Lucky Number Slevin (2006) **1.50** The Scouting Book for Boys (2009) **3.45** Close

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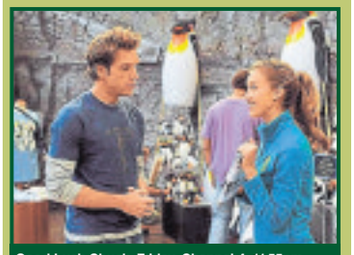
FILM CHOICES

Monday
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, BBC2, 1.45pm
A bumbling dreamer is treated with disdain by everyone he knows. He retreats into a fantasy world to escape grim reality, until an encounter with a mysterious woman sweeps him up into a real-life adventure and gives him the courage to change his life for the better. Comedy based on James Thurber's short story, starring Danny Kaye, Virginia Mayo, Boris Karloff, Fay Bainter, Ann Rutherford, Thurston Hall, Gordon Jones and Florence Bates. (1947)

Tuesday
Yellowstone Kelly, BBC2, 2pm
A fur trapper lives in peace with the Sioux tribe near his hunting ground. However, the harmony is threatened by the arrival of a military force out to avenge the defeat at the Little Big Horn, as well as his own feelings for a woman they are holding captive. Western, starring Clint Walker, Edward Byrnes, John Russell, Ray Danton and Claude Akins. (1959)


Good Luck Chuck, Friday, Channel 4, 11.55pm

Wednesday
Jane Doe: Eye of the Beholder, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A series of robberies at an art gallery prompts former government agent Cathy Davis to investigate. However, the case is complicated when her sidekick Frank falls for the insurance investigator she is convinced is the culprit. Mystery, directed by and starring Lea Thompson. With Jessy Schram and Zack Shada. (2007)

Thursday
Fatal Acquittal, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman is put on trial for murdering her husband, but is found not guilty. However, she discovers her neighbours, the media and even her own daughter all still believe she is the killer, so takes matters into her own hands by trying to unmask the real culprit. Thriller, starring Joely Fisher, and Patrick Muldoon. (2014)

Friday
Good Luck Chuck, Channel 4, 11.55pm
A single man is cursed, so that anyone he sleeps with will find true love with someone else soon afterwards. The situation has its perks in the form of a stream of women seeking him out for one-night stands, but when he meets the girl of his dreams, he resolves to break the spell. Comedy, with Dane Cook, Jessica Alba and Dan Fogler. (2007)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Curtain-raiser promises to be spectacular

The build-up to the Commonwealth Games has been almost as exhausting as taking part.

For months we've been told it's on its way and that it's going to be fantastic – well, at long last, it's time for Glasgow to put its money where its mouth is and prove that anything London can do, it can at least match.

Following the success of the Olympics in 2012, the city certainly has a lot to live up to, but Clare Balding, who will be on presenting duties for the BBC throughout the event, thinks Glasgow will do Scotland proud.

"It's amazing how much people are still talking about London 2012 and when they start talking about it they smile," says Balding. "It makes them feel warm inside and I think it showed the best of us as a country.

"I know that Glasgow will do the same, and the Scottish welcome will be warm and generous and enthusiastic. I just think it is a very good reflection of our ability to organise major events and stage them with humour and a great appreciation of entertainment value, and to do so efficiently and always with the athlete in mind."

She will present coverage of the opening ceremony at Celtic Park alongside Gary Lineker and Hazel Irvine; Irvine also provides the commentary with Huw Edwards.

The Queen's Baton Relay ends here, and 3,000 volunteers take part in what promises to be a spectacular show.

Competitors from 71 nations enter the arena in the Parade of Athletes before the Queen herself officially declares the Games open.

Will she arrive by helicopter with James Bond, as she did during the Olympics? Well, we'll have to wait and see.

Although most of the action takes place in Glasgow, the diving is being held in Edinburgh, which has hosted the Games twice in the past.

One person hoping to make a big splash there this time is Tom Daley. "He'll be defending his title," explains Balding. "It'll be really interesting for Tom. There's been a lot written about him, people questioning his motivation, his fitness, can he step up there? He's up against Matt Mitcham of Australia, who's his strongest competitor."

Balding will mostly be hanging out at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre in Glasgow, and will be keeping her eye on several swimmers, in particular Chad le Clos, the young South African whose father Bert made such an impact on viewers thanks to his emotional interview about his on during the 2012 Olympics.

"But there are some really strong swimmers from the UK, in particular from Scotland," claims Balding. "I hope Hannah Miley defends her medley title and then there's Michael Jamieson, who got the best result of all the swimmers at the Olympics with a silver medal. He's in there with a really good chance of getting Scotland's first gold in the pool."

Whatever happens, we're looking forward to 11 days of top-class competition, and hope a few more star performers become household names by the time the closing ceremony begins.

Commonwealth Games: Opening Ceremony, Wednesday, BBC1, 8.00pm

BEST OF THE REST

Monday
Food Unwrapped
Channel 4, 8.30pm
Kate Quilton heads to Calabria, southern Italy, to find out how bitter-tasting liquorice roots are transformed into sweet treats. Jimmy Doherty discovers that some popular varieties of mushroom are not grown in woodland or even outdoors, while Matt Tebbutt uncovers the nasty bacteria potentially lurking in bean sprouts. He learns that consuming his favourite East Asian vegetable raw could be as risky as eating some oysters, so heads to a factory in Northern Ireland to find out how they can be sold as 'ready to eat'.

Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm
Sara Price-Parker, 44, decided to trace her birth mother Denise after the death of her adoptive mum, but her 25-year search ended in disappointment when she discovered her parent had emigrated to Jamaica in the 1970s. Sara is now turning to Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell as her last hope to establish contact. Pauline Wood, 77, always longed for a sibling to play with while growing up as an adopted only child. At the age of 28, she learned her birth parents later got married and had a son, but the quest to find her brother has gone on for decades to no avail.

Tuesday
Hive Alive
BBC2, 8pm
Chris Packham and Martha Kearney conclude their quest with Professor Adam Hart to explore the remarkable secrets of the lives and habits of bees. They discover how many of the tagged insects have survived over the frenetic midsummer week of nectar and pollen gathering and find out if they have collected enough food at this critical time to see them through the winter. They also investigate the deadly mating ritual of a queen and look at how bees can aid medical research, as well as how people can help them in return.

Wednesday
All Star Mr & Mrs
ITV, 8pm
Phillip Schofield is joined by Loose Women anchor Kaye Adams and her husband Ian, actress Sue Holderness (Only Fools and Horses) and husband Mark, and former Strictly Come Dancing professional Vincent Simone with his fiancee Susan. The contestants find out how much they really know about their other halves, and the couple who give the most correct answers to a series of questions receive the chance to win £30,000 for their chosen charity. However, no one walks away empty-handed – the losing pairs each receive £5,000 for a good cause.

Thursday
Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. George Clarke presides over the 2014 Shed of the Year competition. Accompanied by craftsman Will Hardie, designer Max McMurdo and architect Laura Jane Clark, he visits a range of extraordinary and eccentric builds vying for the title across Britain, from an intricate shell grotto created inside a Second World War bunker, to a 1970s amusement arcade. In the first edition, focusing on the Unique and Eco categories, he explores a giant replica of a teapot, a Titanic museum, a cinema room, a shed made out of 5,000 wine bottles, and an egg-shaped studio and more.

Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year, Thursday, Channel 4, 8pm

Diamond Geezers
ITV, 9pm
Hatton Garden lies in Holborn, London, and has been the centre of London's jewellery trade since medieval times. The area houses numerous businesses, from skilled jewellery-makers to millionaire wheeler-dealers. This bling-tastic documentary focuses on some of the biggest characters who call the place home, including Michael Lynton, who has been creating bespoke pieces for more than 40 years. Others making their mark during the programme are Steve, a sole trader who makes a living from buying and selling gold and travels the country in search of his next big item.

Friday
On the Yorkshire Buses
Channel 5, 8pm
A new school term starts and every bus in East Yorkshire Motor Services's fleet is needed, but a series of breakdowns means the engineers have their work cut out. Roadworks in Hull cause further delays and when passengers begin to complain, boss Peter Shipp calls a crisis meeting with his senior staff. Meanwhile, Scarborough drivers James and Steve go head to head in a sponsored eating challenge to raise money for a local hospice, tackling 12 burgers and a mound of fries washed down with milkshakes in just 40 minutes.

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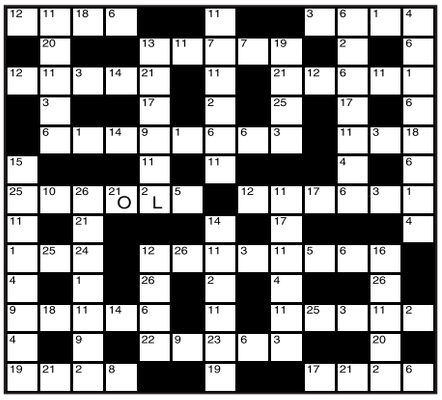
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

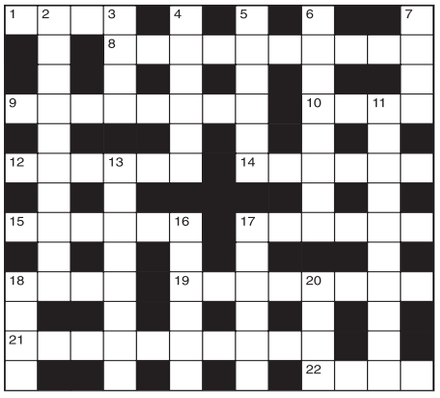


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	L	K	G	A	S	J	R	P	X	M	E	Q
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y	U	F	I	Z	C	H	V	W	O	N	D	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Very popular winter sports range (4)
8. He takes an interest in star appearances (10)
9. Regard as deliberate (8)
10. Pattern print (4)
12. A cape in S. America (6)
14. Change put behind a mirror (6)
15. Some offer is questionable in taste (6)
17. He has the skills to make a suit (6)
18. We are disheartened - or used to be (4)
19. Reject an offer to prepare a bed for sleeping (4,4)
21. One sportsman to be all for reorganisation (10)
22. Swimmers feel strongly at heart (4)

Down

2. Moving example of crazy reasoning? (10)
3. Words of wisdom with a bite (4)
4. The artist's sitting room (6)
5. Gets on the stage (6)
6. Tall trio producing Mexican food (8)
7. Not working for nothing (4)
11. Charming bore? Not exactly (6,4)
13. She vainly seeks masculine attentions (8)
16. Minor performers put on the bill (6)
17. Something in the way of an athlete (6)
18. The half that's better if we go outside (4)
20. I'd turn about with calamitous consequences (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Marrow (4)
8. Illegible (10)
9. Prisoners (8)
10. Wealthy (4)
12. Emerge (6)
14. Caption (6)
15. Contemptible (6)
17. Young hen (6)
18. Side (4)
19. Misuse (3-5)
21. Quadruped (4-6)
22. Water jug (4)

Down

2. Intangible (10)
3. Chase (4)
4. Herdsman (6)
5. Bondman (6)
6. Part-song (8)
7. Network (4)
11. Carriage (10)
13. Always (8)
16. Clothes-maker (6)
17. Navigators (6)
18. Squabble (4)
20. Impolite (4)

Sudoku

		3		1			5	
1	7				2			3
4			3	5				7
					1	2	7	
6			5	2				9
	4	8	9			6		
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5		2	6				3	1
	3			7		8		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	9	3	6	4	5	8	1	7
4	1	5	8	3	7	2	6	9
6	7	8	1	2	9	5	3	4
8	5	9	7	6	4	3	2	1
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1	3	6	9	8	2	7	4	5
9	8	1	3	5	6	4	7	2
5	6	2	4	7	1	9	8	3
3	4	7	2	9	8	1	5	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Above; 8 Actress; 9 Elastic; 10 Aloud; 12 Laryngitis; 15 Good health; 18 Niche; 19 Tapioca; 21 Partial; 22 Canoe. Down: 1 Water-wagon; 2 Total; 3 Sect; 4 Catchy; 5 Straight; 6 Retorts; 11 Designated; 13 Athletic; 14 Concern; 16 Attila; 17 Wound; 20 Pact. QUICK - Across: 7 Noble; 8 Furious; 9 Enforce; 10 Emend; 12 Infectious; 15 Improbable; 18 Edict; 19 Confine; 21 Shudder; 22 Trial. Down: 1 Indefinite; 2 Abaft; 3 Seer; 4 Effete; 5 Oriental; 6 Boredom; 11 Disorderly; 13 Noontide; 14 Optimum; 16 Accord; 17 Rigid; 20 Note.

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

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Visit www.listora.me/2014 to list your next event.

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £149.95
Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £209.95
This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95
Dine and Dance from £149.95
Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*
Single room supplements apply. for all breaks

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Extended and improved detached bungalow

A UNIQUE detached bungalow in Portland Crescent, Pedmore, has been extended and improved.

It is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £385,000. It has a large entrance hall, a sitting room with feature fireplace, dining room with part wall panelling, breakfast kitchen with wood-effect units, a utility with plumbing and space for appliances, three excellent double bedrooms (master with luxury en suite), an impressive four piece main white bathroom in a traditional style, a broad and attractive frontage, block-paved driveway with plenty of parking space, a double garage with a roller door on a remote control, front and very private rear gardens with the rear having a patio/terrace ideal for outside entertaining, and mature conifer trees.

For details contact Taylors Estate Agents on 01384 395555 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk website.

Detached home has golf course views

A MODERN detached home with four bedrooms in Barnetts Lane, Kidderminster, has views over a golf course. It is for sale through Allan Morris & Co at £429,950.

With parking space for a number of cars it has a double garage, a reception hall being almost 22ft in length and cloakroom. There is a room ideal as a gym or office.

On the first floor the living room has stone feature fire place with marble hearth. The breakfast kitchen has a range of cabinets, integrated fridge, freezer and dishwasher, plus cooker with electric oven, gas hob and canopy hood. There are double doors to the garden and double doors to the dining room. Also there is a study or potential fifth bedroom plus utility. Call 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk

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GORNAL
STRAITS ROAD

Spacious corner plot semi-detached in immaculate order thr'out in sought after residential area and comprising-porch -reception hall-lounge-formal dining room-fitted kitchen-three bedrooms-bathroom-front-side-rear gardens-garage to the rear with sizeable block paved parking area-gas c/htg double glazed-Vacant possession
OFFERS BASED ON : £169,950

GORNAL
BIRD STREET

Fully recently refurbished detached cottage style property in a popular residential area within walking distance of the village centre.Lounge-Dining Room-Fitted Kitchen-Cloakroom-Two Bedrooms-Bathroom-Gas C/Htg-Double Glazed Gardens-freehold-Vacant Possession-Reduced toSell
OFFERS BASED ON : £99,950

GORNAL
SUMMIT PLACE

Immaculate detached bungalow adjacent to the village centre and refurbished and restored to provide luxury accommodation. Standing on a good sized landscaped plot and comprising-Lounge-Kitchen Diner-sitting Room-two Bedrooms Bathroom-gas C/htg-Double Glazed-Landscaped Gardens-Immaculate thr'out
OFFERS BASED ON : £212,500

GORNAL

TO LET
- DEEPDALE LANE
- SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- 4 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- GAS C/HTG

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Five bedrooms at spacious family dormer bungalow

A five-bedroomed detached dormer bungalow in Lodge Road, Walsall, is ideal for a growing family. It is for sale through Fraser Wood at £349,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a porch, reception hall, rear lounge, rear sun lounge/conservatory, dining area, a breakfast kitchen with a laundry room off, five bedrooms, a dressing room plus an en suite shower room to bedroom one, an additional shower room and bathroom.

Bedroom one has laminate flooring. Bedroom two has a dressing room and en suite shower room, there are three more bedrooms plus a bathroom with a P-shaped bath.

Outside is a lawned foregarden with borders and extensive concrete/crazy paved driveway providing off-road parking , a garage and a rear garden with a paved patio area and steps to lawn. For further information contact Fraser Wood on 01922 627686 or visit www.fraser-wood.co.uk

Detached home with plenty of parking

A five bedroomed detached house with three reception rooms in Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, has a generous garden and parking.

It is for sale through Connells at £275,000 and comprises a porch, lounge with laminate flooring and spotlights, a dining room with patio doors to the rear, laminate flooring and an archway to the kitchen.

There is also a cloakroom and the bathroom has a re-fitted suite including a P-shaped bath with shower over and heated towel rail.

The rear garden has a decked patio. There is a utility, garage, storage area and gated driveway parking for several vehicles.

For further information contact estate agent Connells on 0121 5522671 or visit the www.connells.co.uk website.

midcalf-nicholls.com

OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 19 JULY 10AM – 1PM

ONLY PLOT 1 AND PLOT 3 NOW AVAILABLE!
PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED

A rare opportunity to acquire one of four, quality, detached, three-bedroomed homes, in a desirable location, with unspoilt greenbelt countryside on the doorstep. Located a short distance from Kingswinford and Gornal, the properties benefit from being in close proximity to amenities such as supermarkets, shops, schools and places to eat. Barrow Hill, a stunning nature reserve, is a stone's throw away and provides walks and riding amidst magnificent views and wildlife. The generous accommodation, with gas-fired central heating, comprises: canopy entrance; reception hall with stairs to the first floor; cloakroom with WC; "through" sitting/dining room with French doors leading to the patio; fitted breakfast kitchen including hob, oven, fridge/freezer, washing machine and dishwasher; landing; three bedrooms, the master with en-suite shower room; and house bathroom. Rear garden laid to patio and lawn.

Asking Price from £210,000

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The Lee, Shaw Partnership

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NEW

Dudley 17 Wistmans Close
£245,000 Kingswinford Office
| 4 Bedroom Detached with Conservatory
| 2 Rec Rooms, Refitted Kitchen & Utility
| Refitted Guest wc & Bathroom. EPC - D

NEW

Kingswinford 36 Moss Grove
£460,000 Kingswinford Office
| Quality Re-appointed 5 Bedroom Detached
| Stunning combined Kitchen/Conservatory
| 2 Rec Rooms, En-Suite, Bathroom. EPC – E

NEW

Wordsley 4 Dewsbury Close
£199,950 Kingswinford Office
| Re-appointed 2 Bed Detached Bungalow
| Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Conservatory
| Refitted Bathroom, Cul-de-sac. EPC – E

NEW

Kingswinford 23 The Knoll
£295,000 Kingswinford Office
| Extended Detached, Loft Conversion (Bed 4)
| Lounge, Open plan Kitchen/Sitting Room
| 3 Bedrooms & Refitted Bathroom. EPC - E

NEW

Pensnett 31 Tarry Hollow
£239,950 Kingswinford Office
| Big Extended 5 Bed (1 En-Suite) Detached
| Lounge, Sitting Room & Bar, Break Kitchen
| Conservatory, Study, Bathroom. EPC - D

NEW PRICE

Kingswinford Warren Lodge, Cot Lane
£399,950 Kingswinford Office
| 4 Bedroom (1 En-suite) Detached
| 2 Rec Rooms, 2 Conservatories
| Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom. EPC - D

NEW

Kingswinford 234 Lesley Drive
£199,950 Kingswinford Office
| 4 Bed Detached (Master with Shower),
| Lounge/Diner, Conservatory, Break-Kitchen
| Hall/Study, Guest wc, Bathroom. EPC - E

NEW

Wordsley 168 Lawnswood Road
£325,000 Kingswinford Office
| Improved & Extended 'Mucklow' Detached
| 2 Rec Rooms, Refitted Break Kitchen
| 4 Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom. EPC - E

NEW

Wordsley 10 Primrose Hill
£239,950 Kingswinford Office
| Traditional Family Detached in Cul-de-sac
| 2 Rec Rooms, Refitted Kitchen, Utility & wc
| 3 Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom. EPC - D

NEW

Kingswinford 69 Stream Road
£465,000 Kingswinford Office
| Big Individual Character Detached
| 4 Rec Rooms, 5 Bedrooms (1 En-Suite)
| Lovely setting & Mature Gardens. EPC - C

The Lee, Shaw Partnership

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NEW PRICE

Kingswinford 49 Cottage Street
| Modern Detached House
| 4 Beds, Sauna & Bathroom
| 2 Receptions & Study
| Deposit £1,200 (EPC - C)
£895 PCM

Gornal 83A Ellowes Road
| Modern Detached House
| 2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen
| 3 Double Bedrooms, Garage
| Deposit £800 (EPC - D)
£695 PCM

NEW

Swindon 6 Falklands Close
| Modern Semi-Detached House
| Quiet Cul-De-Sac Position
| Lounge, Conservatory, 2 Beds
| Deposit £650 (EPC - C)
£650 PCM

NEW PRICE

Stourton 8 Stewponey Court
| Modern 2 Bed First Floor Apt.
| Lounge, Kitchen Recess
| First 2 Months at £390 PCM
| Deposit £750 (EPC - C)
£590 PCM

NOW LET

Kingswinford 18 Hawkeswell Drive
| Modern Second Floor Apartment
| Close To Local Amenities
| 2 Beds, Master En-Suite, Parking
| Deposit £600 (EPC - C)
£550 PCM

Pensnett 91 Tansey Green Road
| Mod. Mid-Terrace Town House
| Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Beds
| Garden With Patio Area, Garage
| Deposit £650 (EPC - C)
£550 PCM

NEW

Brierley Hill 34 Columbus Avenue
| Modern First Floor Apartment
| 2 Beds Master With En-suite
| Designated Parking Space
| Deposit £650 (EPC - B)
£525 PCM

Dudley 54 Overfield Road
| Modern Semi Detached House
| Recently Improved Throughout
| 2 Bedrooms, Drive, Alarmed
| EPC - D, Deposit £550
£495 PCM

NOW LET

Kingswinford Flat 2 Hayley Court
| Modern 2 Bed First Floor Flat
| Fitted Kitchen, Lounge
| Bathroom With Shower
| Deposit £650 (EPC - C)
£495 PCM

NEW

Brierley Hill 103 Dadford View
| Ground Floor 2 Bed Flat
| Designated Parking Space
| Communal Gardens
| Deposit £500 (EPC - E)
£350 PCM

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SKITTS
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EPC: E

Sedgley
High Holborn

- Three bedroom cottage
- Convenient to Sedgley village
- GCH & DG
- Freshly decorated throughout
- Newly fitted kitchen
- Utility room

£625pcm

EPC: D

Coseley
Ettingshall Road

- Two bed apartment
- Kitchen area with integrated appliances
- Breakfast bar
- Low flush W/C
- Storage heaters
- Double glazing
- Security entry system

£495pcm

EPC: D

Sedgley
Rowan Road

- Two bed family home
- Freshly decorated throughout
- GCH & DG
- Dining kitchen with cooker
- Available immediately

£495pcm

EPC: D

Kingswinford
Ragees Road

- Charming one bed ground floor studio flat
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Unfurnished
- Bathroom with shower cubicle
- Double glazing

£350pcm

EPC: D

Coseley
Castle Street

- Two bed first floor flat
- Electric heated
- DG
- Communal garden
- Unfurnished
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255 (option 2)

£350pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Harper Grove

- Four bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Lounge with juliet balcony
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Garage
- Rear garden

£675pcm

EPC: D

Tipton
Ferguson Drive

- Attractive two bed apartment
- Popular residential development
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens
- Off road parking.

£475pcm

EPC: TBC

Tipton
Scott Street

- Two bed ground floor apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Allocated parking
- Tipton office

£475pcm

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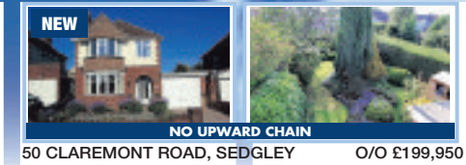
372 HIMLEY ROAD, GORNAL WOOD £269,000

- Individually designed and constructed detached house
- Four bedrooms, en suite shower room
- Attractively presented accommodation
- Well landscaped gardens, ample off street parking
- SEDGLEY OFFICE -EPC RATING D

10 RANSCOMBE DRIVE, LOWER GORNAL O/A £235,000

- Individually built & designed modern detached bungalow
- Bedroom one, bedroom two/dining room
- Spacious lounge and conservatory
- Wide and large garden plot in a quiet backwater of Gornal Wood
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC



50 CLAREMONT ROAD, SEDGLEY O/O £199,950

- Well presented & extended traditional style detached house
- Three bedrooms & recently re-fitted bathroom
- Extended kitchen & downstairs shower room,
- Attractively landscaped westerly facing rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

839 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD O/A £189,950

TIPTON
- Traditional style detached property
- Spacious extended accommodation
- Extensive Gardens
- Mining report available - cash offers
- SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

24 ASHEN CLOSE £185,000

SEDGLEY
- Modern two bedroom detached bungalow
- Well suited as a retirement home
- Enviably positioned backing onto open countryside
- Ample off street parking, attractive level rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

4 OAKLEIGH DRIVE £154,995

SEDGLEY
- Extended town house
- Three bedrooms
- Well maintained accommodation
- Good sized rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

51C SANDSTONE CLOSE £154,950

LOWER GORNAL
- Semi detached bungalow
- Improved & modernised
- Two bedrooms
- Conservatory, shower room
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

'THE BUNGALOW' BROOKDALE £149,000

LOWER GORNAL
- Split level detached residence
- Three bedrooms
- Well maintained & improved
- Deceptive accommodation
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

438 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD £145,000

COSELEY
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Extended & Improved
- Spacious accommodation
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

25 SCHOOL STREET £139,950

SEDGLEY
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Good sized rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

21 HALL STREET OIRO £123,500

CRADLEY HEATH
- Modern semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Well proportioned accommodation
- Gas central heating
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

16 EVE LANE £124,950

UPPER GORNAL
- Edwardian end terraced House
- Two bedrooms, two reception rooms
- Attractive rear garden
- Parking available
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

1 SOUTH OVAL £109,950

UPPER GORNAL
- End terraced house
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

17 FOX FOOT DRIVE, BRIERLEY HILL £124,950

- Beautifully presented modern semi detached house
- Two bedrooms, utility room & re-fitted shower room
- Pleasantly positioned at the head of a cul-de-sac
- Attractively presented front & rear gardens
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

24 FOSTER AVENUE £107,950

COSELEY
- Terraced house
- Three bedrooms
- uPVC double glazing
- Gas central heating
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

14 CROSSLEY STREET £99,950

DUDLEY
- Modern detached bungalow
- Well maintained accommodation
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Shower room
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

team

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DUDLEY

PAGANEL DRIVE

CONSIDERABLY EXTENDED DETACHED!!!!!!!!!!!! A three bedroom extended bay fronted detached property comprising to ground floor entrance hallway, front & extended rear living rooms, study, extended kitchen/diner, extended games room, ground floor cloakroom, utility room, garage, landing, three bedrooms & bathroom. Externally having block paved driveway & mature rear garden. EPC RATING AWAITED

£230,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

TIVIDALE RD

A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED CHARACTER THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY HAVING EXTENSIVE OFF ROAD PARKING AND GARAGE.

We are pleased to market this gas central heated and partly double glazed character bay fronted detached property comprising of private driveway leading to the side gardens and internally comprising of entrance vestibule, guest cloakroom, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, first floor landing, three bedrooms and a large family bathroom.

£195,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

SEDGLEY

DUDLEY ROAD

Two bedroom bay fronted semi detached bungalow in a popular residential location viewing recommended. This double glazed and gas central heated two bedroom semi detached bungalow comprising of entrance porch, entrance hall, two bedrooms, shower room, kitchen/diner and lounge. Externally there is a garden to the front and enclosed rear garden along with off road parking. Epc - d

£160,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

OAKHAM

DINGLE CLOSE

BAY FRONTED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY HAVING GARAGE & DESIRABLE AREA. We are pleased to market this double glazed and gas central heated bay fronted three bedroom semi detached property comprising to the groundfloor of an entrance porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room and garage. To the first floor three bedrooms and bathroom. Externally there is driveway parking and enclosed rear garden. EPC Ratings Awaited

£159,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

KINGSWINFORD

HONEYTREE CLOSE

AN EXTENDED AND WELL PRESENTED LINK DETACHED HAVING NO UPWARD CHAIN! We are pleased to market this gas central heated and double glazed extended link detached property comprising to the ground floor of an entrance hall, lounge, extended dining room, extended fitted kitchen, utility room and garage. To the first floor, the landing gives access to three bedrooms and a fitted bathroom. Externally there is a driveway providing parking to the front and an enclosed rear garden. EPC

£155000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

OAKHAM

OAKHAM DRIVE

A bay fronted traditional semi detached property comprising to the groundfloor of entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, inner lobby and groundfloor cloakroom. To the first floor, landing, three bedrooms, bathroom and attic room. Externally driveway leading to the garage and rear garden. EPC Ratings Awaited

£164,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

OAKHAM

OAKHAM DRIVE

WELL PRESENTED BAY FRONTED SEMI DETACHED. Your Move are pleased to market this double glazed & centrally heated bay fronted property comprising to ground floor - entrance hallway, lounge, rear fitted kitchen, dining area, to the first floor refitted bathroom & three bedrooms, the main bedroom having range of fitted wardrobes. Externally the property enjoys a patio & lawned rear garden whilst to the front having driveway parking. EPC Rating awaited.

£145,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

WOODSETTON

TIPTON RD

AN IMPROVED AND WELL PRESENTED PROPERTY REQUIRING AN EARLY VIEWING. We are pleased to market this gas central heated and double glazed extended mid terrace property comprising to the groundfloor of entrance vestibule, two reception rooms, extended kitchen, first floor landing, two bedrooms and a bathroom having a white suite. Externally there is a driveway and enclosed rear garden. EPC Ratings Awaited

£138,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

DENBIGH CLOSE

A modern semi detached residence approached via driveway parking leading to carport & the property that comprises entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, landing, two bedrooms & house bathroom. Other features include gas central heating system & double glazing where stated, viewing on the property is recommended by the agent. EPC rating D

£118,500 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL

VALLEY ROAD

●EPC Rating D●An Extended Semi Detached Property●Two Bedrooms●Loft Room Used As Bedroom Three●Lounge●Kitchen●Ground Floor Cloakroom●Extended Utility/Games Room To Ground Floor●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Rear Garden

£98,500 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

OAKHAM

OAKHAM DRIVE

IMPROVED BAY FRONTED SEMI DETACHED, VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!!! A gas centrally heated & double glazed bay fronted semi detached property comprising to the ground floor entrance porch, hallway, lounge/dining areas, fitted kitchen, conservatory, landing, three bedrooms, loft room, bathroom. Externlly having cul-de-sac location, extensive rear garden and driveway. EPC rating awaited.

£159,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

WARRENS HALL RD

We are pleased to market this double glazed and gas central heated semi detached property occupying a corner plot and comprising of front and rear gardens, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility area, landing, three bedrooms and a family bathroom. EPC Ratings Awaited

£114,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

COSELEY

JULIE CROFT

We are pleased to market this gas central heated and double glazed mid town house comprising to the groundfloor of entrance hallway, fitted kitchen, rear lounge overlooking the garden, first floor landing, two bedrooms and a bathroom. Externally there is off road parking to the front and gravelled garden to the rear. EPC Rating Is Grade C

£89,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

COSELEY

BEDDOW AVENUE

Double glazed & gas centrally heated three bedroom semi detached comprising to ground floor entrance hall, two living rooms, kitchen, utility room, to the first floor landing, three bedrooms & bathroom. Externally having parking to front & rear garden mainly laid to lawn. EPC rating D

£79,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL

BIRD STREET

We are pleased to market this gas central heated and double glazed end terrace property comprising to the groundfloor of lounge, inner vestibule, kitchen, cellar, landing, two bedrooms and bathroom. Externally there is a rear garden. EPC Rating Is Grade E

£75,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

CARNEGIE AVENUE

END TOWNHOUSE HAVING GALLERY BEDROOM & BATHROOM. A gas centrally heated & double glazed end townhouse comprising open plan lounge/kitchen, gallery landing, bathroom & bedroom. Externally having drive & garage. EPC rating E

£425 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

DARBYS WAY

●●IMMACULATE●● Your-Move are delighted to offer this modern two bedroom apartment and this popular estate. Consisiting lounge, kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms and recently refurbished tiled bathroom. First to view will take!

£475 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

GREEN PARK ROAD

●EPC Rating E●Semi Detached ●Two Double Bedrooms ●Lounge● Fitted Kitchen●Double Glazing ●Drive●Beautifully Presented ●EPC - E

£475 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE

HAWKESLEY ROAD

well presented 2 bedroom property in Dudley, within easy reach of Russells Hall Hospital as well as Dudley town centre. Comprising of through lounge, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, a rear garden and driveway to front AVAILABLE JULY EPC - D

£495 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

HENN DRIVE

THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY OCCUPYING A CORNER PLOT. We are pleased to market this double glazed and gas central heated detached property briefly comprising to the groundfloor of vestibule, hall, lounge, dining room and

£600 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

HIGHLAND ROAD

●●SPACIOUS●● Your-Move are pleased to offer this large one bedroom ground floor apartment close to Dudley town centre. Benefiting from lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom aswell as driveway and rear garden. The EPC rating on the property is E.

£375 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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EAL1734 12/2013

TIVIDALE

OAKTHORPE GARENS

●●AVAILABLE NOW●● Your-Move are pleased to offer this two bedroom apartment in a Cul-De-Sac location giving easy access to Dudley Town Centre and The Village amenities. Benefits include lounge, kitchen, new bathroom and two beds.

£425 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

BIRMINGHAM ROAD

HAVING CONSERVATORY AND NO UPWARD CHAIN. We are pleased to market this modern style semi detached property comprising to the groundfloor of an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, landing, two bedrooms and bathroom. Externally there

£550 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

sales lettings mortgages

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6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

LANESFIELD — Mount Road

NEW

A quite remarkable, EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow with "office annex" and garaging set in extensive grounds with OUTLINE PLANNING CONSENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 2 DETACHED BUNGALOWS TO THE REAR. This magnificent home has been "transformed" by present vendors over the years to now comprise; imposing reception hall, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (two with wardrobes), spacious reappointed 13'3" bathroom with a white suite, elegant 20' lounge with doors to uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, magnificent breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of units, utility room. Externally a former garage is used as an "office suite" with useful shower room, there is a large drive through garage, and a secondary garage together with magnificent gardens laid principally to lawn. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £315,000

COSELEY — Ivyhouse Lane

NEW

An attractive, substantial, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence with delightful gardens initially constructed circa 1950 to an exacting specification (with many fine period features), and subsequently enhanced to an exemplary specification. Magnificent/spacious accommodation includes; imposing reception hall (8'5" ceiling height and parkay floor), reappointed cloakroom, 22'6" through lounge with bay, separate dining room with bay, refitted/extended breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'Avanti' units, granite work surfaces & many appliances, utility room. Gallery landing, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, reappointed bathroom with a stylish white suite & separate toilet. Large garage & further store. Block paved drive and an extensive secluded well tended rear garden. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £269,950

QUARRY BANK

NEW

Rose Hill

Tucked away off the High Street, this BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED AND THOUGHTFULLY EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM DETATCHED BUNGALOW affords a layout with GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING to include; hall, attractive sitting room, separate dining room, oak styled breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms and impressive shower room. Gated drive front, garage and lovely rear garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£210,000

LOWER GORNAL — Burns Grove, Straits

NEW PRICE

Enviably situated in short/quiet cul-de-sac within reasonable walking distance of day-to-day shops, Post Office, country park etc.; a gas centrally heated, part double glazed detached bungalow with potential. Accommodation includes; enlarged reception hall, cloaks cupboard, lounge, breakfast kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Garage, gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £184,950, NOW £180,000

RUSSELLS HALL

NEW

Scotts Green Close

This deceptively spacious, TWO / THREE (potentially FOUR / FIVE) BEDROOM DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOW is situated in an established residential location, and personal inspection is highly recommended to appreciate the potential of the accommodation provided. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, imposing Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Utility / Boiler Room, TWO GROUND FLOOR DOUBLE BEDROOMS, Extensive Loft Room (with tremendous scope for sub-division), Garage, Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating E. CONTACT BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£189,950

Brierley Hill

NEW

Carder Drive

This THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED AND WELL PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME sits at the near head of the close, and with GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Attractive Sitting Room, Refitted Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and Delightful White Bathroom. Fore Garden, Drive to Garage and Pleasant Rear Garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£159,950

SEDGLEY

NEW

Woodbank Road, Brownswall Estate

An attractive conscientiously maintained significantly improved FREEHOLD gas centrally heated and uPVC Semi Detached in favoured district, Accommodation briefly includes hallway, 19ft through living/dining room, uPVC conservatory, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, lengthy 22'2" garage, superb gardens, distance views. No upward chain EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £144,950

BROCKMOOR

NEW

Belle Isle

Favouring an enviable position within this established address and in close proximity to popular schooling, this MODERN, BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED, THREE BEDROOM, LINK DETACHED HOME includes a layout including GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and encompasses a SUPERB CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN WITH FITTED APPLIANCES. The selling agents strongly recommend a viewing and at the earliest opportunity to avoid disappointment. The property is seen to briefly comprise: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Attractive Sitting Room, Superb Contemporary Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms and Delightful Shower Room. Generous Block Pave Driveway, Garage and Enclosed Rear Garden. EPC Rating TBC. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£139,950

HOLLY HALL

NEW

Fullwood Crescent

Favouring an enviable position within this established address, this WELL PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME includes a layout encompassing both GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and has a number of notable features such as an ESTABLISHED REAR GARDEN. The property is seen to briefly comprise: Porch, Hall, Pleasant Sitting Room with Dining Area, MODERN WELL FITTED KITCHEN, Conservatory, Contemporary Shower Room, Three Good First Floor Bedrooms, Generous Drive, Garage and Large Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£124,950

TIPTON

NEW

Lea Green Avenue, Foxyards

An exceptionally stylish, EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been "transformed" by present vendors over the past 2 years to a stunning specification. Tremendous accommodation includes; enlarged 17 ft reception hall, extended 'L' shape 17 ft living/dining room, enlarged/refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances. Two double bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with a contemporary style white suite with chrome detailing, folding loft ladder to extensive ROOF SPACE (14'1" x 10'4" with two velux sky lights). Shortened garage, block paved foregarden, garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

Kingswinford

NEW

Park Street

An IMMACULATE & EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED 'MEWS' BUNGLALOW superbly located within a small & exclusive development, just around the corner from shops and bus routes, offering 'ready to move into' and SPACIOUS accommodation, comprising: Reception Hall, Attractive Lounge through to Dining Area, LUXURY REFITTED KITCHEN with appliances, Bedroom with built in wardrobes, Re fitted Shower room, GAS CENTRAL HEATING & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With PARKING and a PRIVATE, BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. For those of 55 years and over. FREEHOLD. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£123,500

Kingswinford

NEW

DRIVE + GARAGE AT REAR

Standhills Road

Enjoying a gently elevated position within this highly sought after address and greatly enhanced by a DRIVEWAY + GARAGE to the rear, this TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE affords SPACIOUS accommodation which although REQUIRES UPDATING, provides EXCELLENT POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT and includes: reception hall, lounge through to dining room, kitchen, potential utility room, TWO EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS, bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING. With low maintenance fore garden, LARGE LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN with REAR DRIVEWAY and GARAGE. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£117,500

Brierley Hill

NEW

Leys Crescent

This traditional style, gas centrally heated, Three Bedroom Semi Detached home would now ideally benefit from cosmetic improvement / upgrading, yet OFFERS EXCELLENT POTENTIAL. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three First Floor Bedrooms and Front / Rear Gardens. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£89,950

TIPTON

NEW

Davis Avenue

A uPVC or aluminium frame double glazed, mostly gas centrally heated, semi detached for improvement most conveniently situated in popular district within easy range of so many amenities. Accommodation includes; porch, reception hall, pantry, lounge with bay, sitting room with patio doors, kitchen, bathroom. Potential off road parking, delightful sheltered rear garden. EPC rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

SEDGLEY — Greenleighs

An absolutely outstanding, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed detached family residence that has been significantly EXTENDED, enlarged & enhanced over the years enviably situated in exclusive neighbourhood with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from rear towards Clee/ Wrekin Hills. The accommodation includes porch, traditional reception hall, sitting room with bay, fitted cloakroom, elegant 18ft lounge (with patio doors out to terrace with views beyond), extended refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of oak finish units, extensive granite work surfaces & numerous integrated appliances, laundry/utility room. Four bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite/shower & separate shower room also with stylish white suite, garage. Magnificent rear garden forming a particular feature. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £355,950

Wombourne

Bumblehole Meadows

Superbly located within highly sought after Wombourne Village, this DISTINCTIVE 'DAVID PAYNE' DETACHED FAMILY HOME forms part of this exclusive development and offers a VERY SPACIOUS arrangement of VERY WELL PRESENTED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS LOUNGE, separate formal dining room, fitted dining kitchen with integrated appliances, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS (all having fitted wardrobes and the master having an EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM) and house bathroom with 'light' colour suite. Set back beyond an attractive low maintenance foregarden, together with the LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with approach to GARAGE and enjoying an EXCELLENT SIZED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£229,500

BEARWOOD 129 Poplar Road 0121 434 4345
HALESOWEN 21 Hagley Road 0121 550 3978
SEDGLEY 2A Dudley Street 01902 880888

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6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

COSELEY

Gough Road

WALKING DISTANCE OF RAILWAY STATION. Extensive secure PARKING with substantial GARAGE. A distinctive, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached residence of character with many fine period features occupying a fine corner plot, and comprising; entrance porch, imposing reception hall, store, lounge, through dining room, breakfast kitchen with further utility section and separate toilet. Principle bedroom with intercommunicating bedroom three and two further bedrooms, bathroom, delightful excellently tended gardens, established caravan parking area, garage (21'4 x 16'4"). EPC Rating E SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £189,950

Brierley Hill

Carder Drive

This most impressive, modern style, uPVC Double Glazed, gas centrally heated, FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED family home is "tucked away" in a quiet Cul-De-Sac, and simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The considerably improved and extended property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, spacious Lounge, Dining Room, lovely re-fitted "bespoke" Kitchen with a fine range of units and utility area, Ground Floor Shower Room, FOUR EXCELLENT BEDROOMS, Re-Fitted Bathroom with white suite, Driveway providing ample parking, and a low maintenance Rear Garden. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£184,950

DUDLEY

Richborough Drive

Enviably situated, overlooking open space with tremendous spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED CONSERVATORY a much enhanced gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached in favoured neighbourhood with superb accommodation including reception hall, store, upgraded fitted cloakroom, breakfast kitchen, transverse lounge, magnificent conservatory. Three bedrooms (principal bedroom with reappointed shower room en suite), upgraded bathroom with white suite. Gated drive with substantial brick garage, secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £178,500

LOWER GORNAL

Humphrey Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A primarily uPVC DOUBLE GLAZED, and gas centrally heated (combi boiler) detached in popular, particularly convenient, location. The house has been conscientiously maintained although offers further potential, and comprises; entrance porch, reception hall, living room, dining room, recently refitted kitchen (with range of "light beech" units), utility, separate toilet. Three bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite/shower. Garage, secluded rear garden, block paved foregarden. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £169,950

Wordsley

Kinver Street

Enjoying a generous corner position within a popular and established address, this MODERN DETACHED DORMER STYLE HOME is enhanced by a LARGE 28'11" x 12'1" TANDEM GARAGE, together with a DELIGHTFULLY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN with the attractive brook feature. Offering SPACIOUS and WELL PROPORTIONED accommodation comprising: Entrance Porch, pleasant 'L' shaped Lounge-with-Dining Area, Inner Hall with storage, fitted Kitchen with appliances, Bathroom with separate shower, TWO FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond a GOOD SIZED BLOCK-PAVED DRIVEWAY which provides ample off-road parking for several vehicles. EPC Rating: D KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£159,950

DUDLEY

The Broadway

A highly individual FREEHOLD gas centrally heated, combi boiler, and double glazed (as seen) detached popular convenient district. The redecorated and refreshed accommodation includes entrance vestibule, reception hall, 22'4" through living/dining room, upgraded kitchen. Three GENEROUS BEDROOMS, reappointed/re tiled bathroom with white suite, reappointed separate toilet, garage, garden EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

DUDLEY

Harvard Close

This modern style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom detached family is situated in a cul-de-sac location and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises; entrance porch, hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, guest w.c. Three bedrooms (with en suite to master), bathroom with white suite. Garage, driveway and rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

PRICE: £159,950

HOLLY HALL

Crossgate Road

This period style, EXTENDED, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom detached family residence provides DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS accommodation over two floors, and whilst ideally requiring certain cosmetic improvement / upgrading, offers EXCELLENT POTENTIAL. The property briefly comprises: open plan lounge / dining room, inner hall, sitting room, kitchen, three good bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c, garden and double garage (in need of attention) to rear. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£144,950

COSELEY

Elmdale Road, Bramford Estate

A traditional, ENLARGED, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached in popular district. Accommodation includes; 18 ft reception hall, store, lounge with bay & open fireplace, enlarged 16'8" dining room with feature fireplace incorporating a woodburner stove, and a conservatory beyond., extended breakfast kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Store, utility room, separate toilet, garage, sheltered garden incorporating terraces/patios. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £139,950

COSELEY

Mount Pleasant Street

A TREMENDOUSLY modernised and upgraded FREEHOLD gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been transformed in recent years; the enlarged accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, thorough living/dining room (formerly separate rooms) extended/refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units, glazed lobby, separate toilet; 3 bedrooms (one with fitted units) reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite LARGE GARAGE secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

PRICE: £139,950

SEDGLEY

Bilston Street

DOUBLE GARAGE AT REAR! A deceptively spacious freehold, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached excellently positioned within walking distance of Sedgleys bullring and all associated amenities. A number of period features have been retained/enhanced. Accommodation comprises traditional reception hall, store, dining room with open fireplace, transverse lounge with open fireplace, inner vestibule and superb 17'1" breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units. Two (potentially three) bedrooms, bathroom, secluded/sheltered rear garden and substantial concrete panel 20ft x 17ft contractors garage. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £132,750

UPPER GORNAL

Greenhill Road

A spacious, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, semi detached that has been "transformed" by present vendors to a superb specification in recent years. Accommodation includes; reception hall, through 21' living/dining room (with double doors out to garden), refitted breakfast kitchen, rear vestibule, utility room, toilet. Three generous bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite. Potential garage (kerb not dropped) good sized secluded rear garden. EPC Rating:C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in excess of £123,000

DUDLEY

Mulberry Green, Old Park Farm

A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been TREMENDOUSLY modernised & improved in recent years to an exemplary standard. Accommodation provides; double glazed entrance porch, inner hallway, 20'7" through lounge, refitted/enlarged breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of "beech" effect units & various integrated appliances. Three generous bedrooms, reappointed/retiled bathroom. Delightful, expertly tended/sheltered rear garden with many features. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £115,000

NETHERTON

Cradley Park Road

This beautifully presented, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM End Townhouse is pleasantly situated in an established location, and is well worthy of internal inspection. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with white suite, Front / Rear Gardens and allocated Parking. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£104,950

QUARRY BANK

Birch Coppice

This really quite charming, Victorian style, Double Glazed (vast majority of units being uPVC), two Bedroom Semi-Detached Cottage is beautifully presented throughout, and may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Utility, Two First Floor Bedrooms, Shower Room and low maintenance Rear Courtyard. EPC Rating F. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£99,950

COSELEY

Hinchliffe Avenue

An EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, and double glazed (part uPVC/part aluminum casements) semi detached with rare advantage of additional gated side space offering potential. Accommodation includes; hall, storage cupboard, refitted kitchen, extended 18'8" living/dining room, three bedrooms, reappointed shower room (former bathroom) with stylish white suite. Garage, parking, garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £99,950

SEDGLEY

Bilston Street, Claremont Cottages

An enviably situated intermediate bungalow with potential positioned within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring and all associated amenities. Upvc double glazing. The accommodation comprises; reception hall, cloaks, kitchen, 'L' shape lounge/dining room (with patio doors), double bedroom, upgraded shower room with white suite. Neat rear garden, tarmacadammed parking. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

WOODSETTON

Roper Walk

A uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated (combi boiler), first floor flat enviably situated adjacent to and over looking adopted open space with DISTANT VIEWS. Accommodation comprises reception hall, store, 17'3" living/dining room, breakfast kitchen, double bedroom with wardrobes, bathroom, shared grounds and allocated parking. EPC Rating D.. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £71,950

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Dudley
Ripley Grove

NEW INSTRUCTION

A beautifully presented two bedroom detached coach house benefitting from a garage and private rear garden. Also comprising entrance hall, open plan lounge/kitchen, white bathroom suite. Driveway to the front of the property. EPC Ordered

£114,950

DUDLEY
Pearce Close

A beautifully presented two bedroom semi detached house. Having newly fitted kitchen and shower room and benefiting from a low maintance rear garden. Briefly comprising entrance hall, downstairs wc, L-shaped lounge/dining room, kitchen, two double bedrooms, shower room, rear garden and driveway to the front of the property.

£109,950 o/o

Dudley
Bradfield Way

NEW INSTRUCTION

●SHOW HOME STANDARD● A recently constructed two bedroom semi detached house. This property offers generous accommodation which includes reception hallway, guest WC, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, lounge, two DOUBLE bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor. Driveway to fore, rear garden having a paved patio area & garden shed.. Gas central heating and Upvc double glazing. Viewing is highly recommended!

£123,500

Dudley
New Rowley Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

REALISTICALLY PRICED! This three bedroom detached house with detached garage really is a must view! Briefly comprising downstairs WC, lounge, kitchen/dining room, en-suite shower room, family bathroom, rear garden & driveway.

£150,000 o/o

SWINDON
Swin Forge Way

Delightfully located this three bedroom modern style detached occupying a unique canal-side setting at the end of a private drive in a sought after village position and near glorious Staffordshire countryside. Briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, large fitted kitchen with dining area, conservatory, downstairs wc, ensuite and dressing room to master bedroom, family bathroom. Outside there is a landscaped garden with gated access to the canal, extensive driveway parking and a detached garage. EPC - C

£325,000

Tipton
Birmingham New Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

A three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/dining room, lean to with a downstairs wc, family bathroom, rear garden, garage and driveway. NO UPWARD CHAIN! Conveniently located for Dudley town centre. Transport links are provided on the Birmingham New Road, in one direction towards Wolverhampton and in the opposite direction towards Dudley and the M5 motorway island.

£99,950

Dudley
Harebell Crescent

NEW INSTRUCTION

A two bedroom semi detached house located on a corner position with accommodation briefly comprising of hallway, lounge, kitchen, downstairs wc, driveway and garden to the rear

£94,950

Dudley
Ashenhurst Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

Three bedroom semi detached house briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway to the front. No upward chain!

114,950

Tividale
Alexandra Way

NEW INSTRUCTION

●NO UPWARD CHAIN● GARAGE● This well presented two bedroom end townhouse is well worth viewing. Briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom to the first floor, private rear garden and allocated parking.

£85,000

Rowley Regis
Bullfields Road

NEW PRICE

A spacious family home in a cul-de-sac location with double glazing and central heating, having a lounge to the front, a modern, refitted kitchen to the rear, leading to a separate dining room with access to the rear garden. Upstairs has three good sized bedrooms with a modern bathroom/WC with separate shower. EPC D

£109,950

Netherton
Marlow Close

Beautifully presented and having a LARGE conservatory this three bedroom semi detached house really is a must view! Briefly comprising entrace hall, lounge, modern fitted kitchen leading to a conservatory, utility, downstairs wc/shower room, family bathroom, rear garden, garage and off road parking. No upward chain!

£159,950

DUDLEY
Buffery Road

NEW PRICE

Having a generous sized rear garden and two reception rooms this property really does have a lot to offer. Also comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, garage, rear garden and a driveway. EPC - D

£124,950 o/o

DUDLEY
Corbyn Road

NEW PRICE

A beautifully presented one bedroom first floor apartment located on the "Russells Hall" estate, having been improved by the current owner and briefly comprising lounge, fitted kitchen, master bedroom with fitted wardrobes, white bathroom suite & a well maintained rear garden. No upward chain

£62,000

Dudley
Buxton Road

NEW PRICE

● RECENTLY REFURBISHED & REALISTICALLY PRICED● Beautifully presented three bedroom semi detached house briefly comprising entrance hall, open plan lounge/dining room, modern fitted kitchen, newly fitted bathroom suite, garage, rear garden and driveway to the front. NO UPWARD CHAIN!

£90,000 o/o

NETHERTON
Cradley Road

NEW PRICE

Extended two bedroom semi detached tardis! This property really is bigger than it looks. Offering no upward chain and briefly comprising lounge, second reception room, extended kitchen/breakfast room, shower room. Beautiful rear garden and a driveway to the front. EPC Ordered

£114,950

BRIERLEY HILL
Terrace Street

● REALISTICALLY PRICED● A beautifully presented and well maintained three bedroom detached house. Briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/dining room, modern fitted bathroom, rear garden and driveway to the front.

£139,995

TIVIDALE
Regent Road

Beautifully presented and particularly spacious three bedroom semi detached house with a coverted garage offering a fourth bedroom with wet room. The property briefly comprises of hallway, lounge with dining area, kitchen, conservatory, gardens to the front and rear and ample off road parking. No upward chain. EPC - C

£149,950

DUDLEY
Attingham Drive

A modern one bedroom freehold house with hallway, open plan lounge and kitchen with french door to balcony, mezzanine floor, shower room and allocated parking space. EPC = C

£86,950

Dudley
Grove Street

NEW INSTRUCTION

One bedroom 2nd floor flat. Has lounge, fitted kitchen to include cooker & washing machine. Bathroom with shower. Parking area to front. Double glazing. Unfurnished. Dss considered with guarantor. EPC C

£375 PCM + Fees

DUDLEY
Ashenhurst Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

A one bedroom first floor apartment close to the Russells Hall Hospital. Gas central heating, double glazing. Access to a rear garden. DSS considered with guarantor. No pets. EPC C

£395 PCM + Fees

Dudley
Attingham Drive

TO LET

A modern, ground floor one bed apartment, open plan dining/lounge/kitchen, house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Available part furnished or unfurnished, allocated parking. Available for viewing now. No DSS. EPC C

£450 PCM + Fees

DUDLEY
Priory Street

TO LET

A modern four bedroom second floor apartment situated in Dudley town centre. Three double bedrooms and one single. En suite to one double bedroom. Fitted kitchen and large lounge No DSS and no pets. EPC D

£515 PCM + Fees

DUDLEY
Parsons Street

TO LET

Two bed luxury penthouse loft apartment, fitted kitchen, shower room, lounge/dining kitchen. Part furnished. Secure entry, viewing recommended. Secure parking available. No Dss. No Pets. EPC E

£525 PCM + Fees

Halesowen
Talbot Street

NEW PRICE

A two bed end terraced house with double glazing and central heating, Two reception rooms and modern fitted kitchen, upstairs has two double bedrooms and house bathroom/WC with electric shower over the bath. Unfurnished, alarmed, has garden to rear. Available to view now. No pets. No DSS. EPC E

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TO LET

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Elm Terrace

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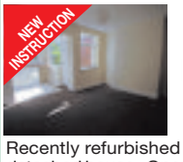

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£550 PCM + Fees

Dudley
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This SUPERBLY PRESENTED and beautifully improved Modern 2 Bed Semi provides generously proportioned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning First time buyer or young family and is pleasantly situated in this popular address. Briefly comprises :- Hall, spacious Lounge with Dining Area, SUPERBLY FITTED KITCHEN with built in oven and hob, 2 double Bedrooms, SUMPTUOUS RE-APPOINTED SHOWER ROOM, pleasant low maintenance front and rear Gardens and Garage to rear. EPC=C

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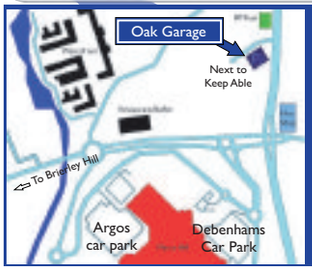

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Black Special Edition in mpg (l/100km): Urban 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 emissions: 94 g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes & may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £22,460 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic registered from 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Civic Black Special Edition Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £22,460 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £0 (0%) deposit, £408.29 monthly payment, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £7,761.73 annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 6p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Honda Finance Europe Plc. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. **The 5 Year Care Package includes: Servicing:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes fi rst. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes fi rst. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary Hondacare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes fi rst. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is **being offered for £555 including VAT** (usual value £1,845 including VAT, resulting in a £1,290 saving for the customer) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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Freelander Metropolis a class act

By John Griffiths

Land Rover has unveiled the most luxurious and best equipped Freelander ever – and despite all the extra kit it costs less than the previous flagship of the range.

And we know there will never be a better Freelander because the model is due to be replaced next year by the Discovery Sport.

Most manufacturers produce special editions during a model's run-out period, and in this case it's the £35,995 Metropolis which builds on the previously top-of-the-range HSE Lux with premium Windsor leather, electrically-adjustable seats, a panoramic sunroof, xenon headlights, a reversing camera, premium metallic paint, gloss black interior highlights and new 19in alloy wheels.

Launched at the Windsor Horse Show, it heads up a completely revised Freelander range, with new trim levels and power train options. It should boost Freelander sales at a time when the popularity of compact SUVs is still growing, as is the choice and sophistication of the competition.

That said, the Freelander 2 already has the advantage of being instantly recognisable as a product of the iconic marque, with styling cues taken from the Discovery and of course, the Range Rover. For many that makes it an object of desire, and does secondhand values no harm at all.

The 4x4 Freelander is a serious off-roader, but it's also roomy and comfortable everyday transport on the road: and in the case of the Metropolis downright luxurious. It's the ultimate Freelander, in a range which has been moving further upmarket with each successive revision.

Comfort

Driver and passengers can relax in the plush leather and in air conditioned comfort, while enjoying the same high-powered surround sound system fitted to top Jaguar models. A central colour touch-screen provides compact and easy-to-use controls for the satnav, audio and Bluetooth telephone systems.

It is, naturally, powered by the top engine in the range, the 190PS, 2.2-litre, four-cylinder diesel which can take it from a standstill to 62mph in under ten seconds and average a little over 40mpg.

The smooth and responsive automatic transmission is standard: you have to concentrate to even feel the changes which adds to the car's upmarket feel.

That feeling is echoed in the interior: not just the Metropolis extras but the styling cues on the instruments and controls which just scream Range Rover.

A previous makeover simplified the switchgear, removing for example the big 'Terrain Response' knob so that there's now just one switch allowing you to scroll through a menu of settings which govern how the gears, throttle and steering respond best in any given conditions.

Land Rover prides itself on the superior off-road capabilities of all its cars and the Freelander is no exception. But long gone are the days of the Series I's rough ride resulting from the necessarily beefy, long travel suspension. Now they have to compete with the comfort and ride quality of their less versatile rivals on the road where, let's face it, SUVs will spend most of their time.

The Freelander soaks up the bumps, with a smooth, saloon car-like ride while the engine is refined and quiet. High-speed cornering in a high vehicle like this inevitably means some body roll, but it's not enough to cause discomfort.

If the original Freelander was the baby of the range, the Freelander 2 is the teenager because it grew in all directions, so it's now not all that far behind its more expensive siblings in terms of room for five passengers. The 755 litres of boot space makes it useful family transport and by folding down the three rear seats you can extend that to 1,670 litres. The towing limit is 2,000kg.

Electric windows and mirrors, split/fold rear seats, rear parking sensors, and electronic safety systems such as dynamic stability control are standard across the new Freelander range, which consists of five models.

All are now powered by the same turbo-diesel engine, with three trim levels (including Metropolis) – the other two both come with manual or auto gearbox options. The new line-up starts from £27,765.

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Peugeot 308 worthy winner

By Sharon Walters

It's good to know that just once in a while, the European Car of the Year panel gets things right. We've had some stinking decisions that have seemed to smack of brown paper bags in service station car parks at night. The clear winner in 2014 was a car that fully deserved the plaudits. Again it was a Peugeot family hatch, but the numerical closeness is all the underwhelming 307 and the excellent 308 have in common.

We've been getting used to the hatch for a little while now and Peugeot has subsequently fleshed out the 308 line with the car that we run the rule over here, the SW estate. Forget what you thought you knew about small estates. This one comes with a rare injection of desirability.

The petrol engine line up is based around a PureTech 1.2-litre e-THP three-cylinder engine offering either 110 or 130bhp. Go diesel and you're looking at a 1.6-litre turbodiesel. There's a base version with 92bhp or an e-HDi model with 115bhp and Stop-Start. Next up are the new generation BlueHDi diesels, either a 1.6 with 120bhp or a 2.0-litre unit with 150bhp, the latter offering the option of auto transmission.

There's usually a lot of nonsense spoken by car stylists but the buzzwords around the 308 SW really do ring true. Stretched, slender, fluid and dynamic, it's anything but your usual hatchback with an afterthought of a glasshouse clumsily attached.

Storage

Despite that arcing roofline, there's plenty of space in the back. The boot below the parcel shelf is a respectable 660-litres, which includes 70-litres of storage under the floor. You also get so-called Magic Flat rear seats which allow instant folding of both parts of the rear seat using levers accessible on the sides of the boot. Thanks to the automatic lowering of the rear seat cushions, the result is a flat floor and 1,660-litres of luggage space. Not enough for the extra third row seating that pevious models used to have though. The boot aperture has a width of up to 106cm and a length to the rear seat backs of 107cm. It has vertical side walls with minimal wheel arch intrusion and the load sill is among the lowest of any estate car.

Prices start from around £17,000 and all models include Bluetooth, air conditioning and a DAB radio. You'll need to avoid the entry-level Access model though if you want the 9.7-inch multi-function infotainment touchscreen that makes the 308's interior such an engaging place to be. That's included at Active level, along with alloy wheels and auto headlamps.

The range-topping Allure model gets leather and Alcantara seats, or you can pay a bit more and go for full leather. This features subtle stitching, some impressive fluting and a particularly comfortable shape. The optional electric adjustment includes a variable massage function. The full-length glass roof transforms the feel of the rear seats and is sure to prove a favourite option.

Electric parking brakes haven't found universal favour but the one fitted to the 308 is one of the better examples. It disengages automatically as you pull away and makes the centre console look clean and tidy.

The aluminium roof bars are a standard fit item and Peugeot will also sell you accessory and carrying systems for roof boxes and cycle carriers.

No diesel engine in the 308 SW range emits more than 111g/km. Likely to prove popular with buyers is the new BlueHDi 1.6-litre 120bhp diesel which, when linked to a six-speed manual gearbox, records a combined cycle fuel consumption figure of some 88.3mpg and emissions of 85g/km; a record in the segment.

The Peugeot 308 SW is that rarest of things; a compact estate with genuine style. All too often cars in this class are horribly compromised, offer little in the way of genuine practicality over their hatchback siblings and look gawky and ill-proportioned.

The 308 SW is sleek and stylish with a reassuring aura of quality both inside and out.

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personal

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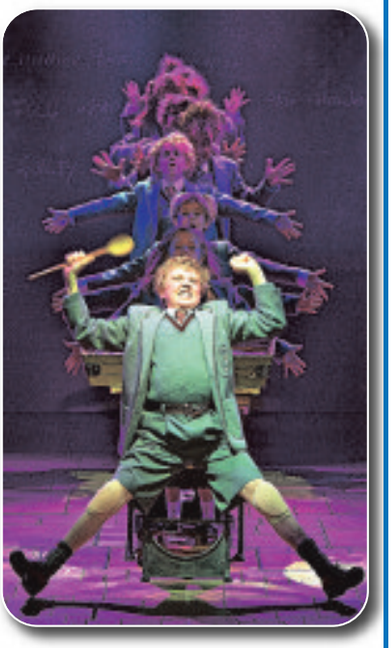

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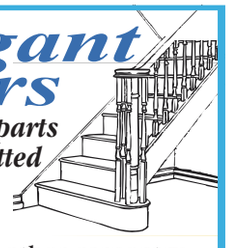

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Starke warning of tough meeting

Speedway

CRADLEY skipper Paul Starke says the home meeting with Coventry next Tuesday will be the toughest of the season at Monmore, *writes Nigel Pearson*.

The Heathens have been in rampant form in 2014, claiming several big wins as they aim to defend their National League title.

But they were beaten by Coventry at Brandon in April and are looking for some revenge in what promises to be a great night of racing.

Starke knows his side are in for a difficult night as arguably the two strongest sides in the third tier do battle. But with the Heathens high on confidence, he is backing his side to add three more points to their a National League tally.

Starke said: "Our season starts now really – we've got some tough meetings coming up and we need to show what we are made of.

"The meeting against Coventry is probably the biggest meeting of the season so far for us, and we are desperate to perform well. We know we are capable of getting all three points, and that is obviously what we are aiming for. We were really disappointed to lose at Coventry earlier in the year, but we are at home this time around and everyone has hit top form.

"We've really built up some momentum since then and everyone has been banging in big points regularly, so if they can do the same this week we should get the right result.

"Everyone is riding regularly and improving all the time, so I think we are probably a better team than we were in April.

"Coventry are a strong side with some good riders at this level so we can't afford to take anything for granted.

"But at the same time I'm confident we can come away with the win."

The following Tuesday, Heathens host their prestigious FAST Golden Hammer individual event with a bumper crowd expected.

And on Sunday, July 27, club legend Billy Hamill returns to the area for a special evening with supporters at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill. Tickets are still available, at £10, from the club shop or website.

Beacon pushing for glory with title

Tales from The Bratch

IN-FORM Beacon are eyeing a push for title glory after climbing into the top three of the Staffs Clubs Premier Division.

Skipper Roger Fildes led by example as Beacon bagged a winning-draw at neighbouring Swindon to move within 18 points of leaders Cannock.

Fildes stroked a superb century to help his side to 258. Chris Townsend (23) was the only other batsman to pass 20 with the total boosted by 39 extras.

Swindon fell short in the run chase as they were restricted to 200-8 with James Fildes and Harry Hodgetts each grabbing two wickets.

Beacon's second team also picked up the share of the spoils from a drawn clash with Swindon.

Chasing Swindon's imposing 300-5, the Beacon batting line up fired as they reached 245-4 in 40 overs to claim the winning draw.

Jon Forster led the way with 76 with Matt Cartwright (50 not out), Aqil Ahmed (46) and Shaun Laban (39) offering support. The third XI took the spoils from their clash with Rugeley.

Rugeley posted 193-4 with Beacon getting past the winning post with two wickets to spare.

Yeltz have to work for their first victory

Halesowen 3 Romulus 1

HALESOWEN claimed a hard-earned, yet promising win over former league rivals Romulus, as two late goals were enough to seal the game.

Football

The Yeltz featured nine of the 11 that started against Belper on the final day of the season, with Iyseden Christie and Joe Hull giving way for new signing Joel Kettle and Peter Till. Romulus featured ex-Yeltz shot stopper Paul Evans and started new signing Danico.

It wasn't long before the Yeltz showed their superiority in this game as they took the lead seven minutes in.

Aaron Griffiths' corner ball was headed across the face of goal by former Coles Lane resident Joel Kettle, and Ben Haseley was quickest to react as he stuck his foot out and directed the ball into the net.

However, as the game went on, Romulus started to look threatening, and the Yeltz were punished for poor defending on 35 minutes, as Scott Meer hit the ball deep into the Yeltz penalty area, and Danico came in the front of the Yeltz backline and dived down to head the ball past Sargeant and get the Roms back in the game.

The highlight of the first 30 minutes of the second half was the unexpected drinks break on 75 minutes, as somehow the temperature broke the 25c mark.

However, the drinks break seemed to help the Yeltz, as Aarom Griffirhs brought the ball down on the edge of the 18 yard box, turned and smashed the ball through the bundle of players in the box and into the bottom left hand corner.

Halesowen claimed a third goal late on, as Yeltz sub Robby Thompson-Brown dinked the ball over Evans and then tapped the ball into an empty net to humiliate the former Yeltz keeper.

Romulus were nearly gifted a goal by the Yeltz in the closing stages, as Joel Kettle headed the ball back towards goal, while substitute keeper Sam Pearson was in position to catch the ball, and he just manage to get back and push the ball just wide of the post.

The final whistle went, and while the Yeltz claimed the win, they still have aspects of their game to improve before the start of the season in over a month's time.

Halesowen: Matt Sargeant, Kristian Green, Asa Charlton, Neil Mackenzie, Curtis Tilt, Joel Kettle, Elliott Turner, Tom Tonks, Peter Till, Ben Haseley, Aaron Griffiths.

Man of the Match: Aaron Griffiths

Junior footballers are champions of festival

The Dudley Juniors under-15s team which has come away as champions of ESF Festival of Football

Dudley Juniors FC took the glory at the 2014 ESF Festival Finale at the University of Warwick Football Centre.

An unbeaten three wins and one draw saw them crowned the under-15s Champions after another thrilling tournament.

Dudley Juniors FC qualified for the tournament after taking part in the Festival of Football at Butlins, Minehead earlier this year. The team went to the university full of confidence and beat three teams along the way to being crowned champions.

Kristin Brookes, from Dudley Juniors FC said: "The whole team is thrilled with our victory, what a weekend it was at the University of Warwick.

" Events like this are a great opportunity for the kids to showcase their talent against some of the top teams in the country, but mainly to enjoy themselves.

"The whole weekend ran seamlessly and hopefully we'll be back next year to defend our title. "

Martyn Young, at ESF Events, added: "With thousands of talented participants involved, the 2014 ESF Festival of Football has been another highly successful series of events."

Teams wishing to enter for next year should visit www.footballfestivals.co.uk or call 01664 566360.

Tank told to expect to get test next time

DUDLEY'S Ryan Aston has been told to expect a test when professional boxing returns to his home-town in the autumn, *writes Craig Birch*.

'Tank' rolled over late replacement Dee Mitchell to record the 14th victory of his paid career in his 15th contest on Saturday night, but harder challenges appear to be afoot.

The Venue in Dudley has been lined up for action on September 19 and an opponent will be brought in for Aston, who supports Tipton's Ricky Summers as he boxes for a title.

Aston took no chances with wily Brummie Mitchell at Aston Villa Football Club's Holte Suite. It came on a stacked bill co-ordinated by Paul 'PJ' Rowson, Tommy Owens and Jon Pegg.

Scheduled opponent Simone Lucas cried off on the day, the ever-ready Mitchell called into action as not a man to be trifled with, and a veteran of 73 pro contests.

The Black Country combatant was defending a nick to the left eye that could have opened up under pressure. That second round setback saw him share the second round with Mitchell, but he rolled over to record a 40-37 points victory.

Schoolboy Mongan in the medals

BLACK Country boy Jerry Mongan took home a bronze medal from the AIBA European Schoolboys Championships in Hungary.

The 14-year-old battled valiantly against the World No 1 at 54kg, the Russian Emin Khataev, who snuck the verdict despite coming under fire in the second round.

Mongan, the fighting pride of Priory Park Boxing Club in Dudley, skippered the England side and defeated Ireland's Michael McDonagh with guile and pressure to set up the meeting.

The reigning ABA Schoolboys champion's star is rising at international level, with the new season on the horizon in the autumn.

Lambert in talks with Swans' Ki

VILLA are closing in on Ki Sung-Yeung as Fabian Delph was linked with West Ham.

Swansea midfielder Ki reportedly held talks with Paul Lambert with the manager hoping to complete a deal this week.

Ki impressed on loan at Sunderland last season, helping them avoid the Premier League drop.

He made 41 appearances for the Swans after signing from Celtic in 2012 and would become Villa's first cash signing of the summer if a deal can be agreed.

The move comes as West Ham were linked with a £5m move for Player of the Season Delph, who has just one year left to go on his contract.

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Villa and Baggies both get TV boost

VILLA'S first home game of the season against Newcastle has been picked for television coverage, while four Albion's fixtures have also been moved to help the schedules.

Villa are on the box six times before the end of November.

They kick off at Villa Park on August 23, when they host the Magpies on BT Sport.

Villa's trip to Liverpool on September 13 will be shown on Sky Sports (5.30pm), along with the away game with QPR on October 27 (8pm).

The broadcaster will also show Paul Lambert's men in home games with Manchester City (October 4, 5.30pm), Tottenham (Sunday, November 2, 4pm) and Southampton (Monday November 22, 8pm).

Albion have to wait until September 28, when they host Burnley at the Hawthorns, for their first live Sky game.

But the cameras will be back on Monday, October 20 when they host Manchester United and on Sunday, November 9 when Newcastle are the visitors to their ground.

The Baggies are then on BT Sport later that month on November 29 when they entertain Arsenal.

Brummies are shut down

WITH deep regret the British Speedway Promoters' Association can confirm the closure of Birmingham Brummies with immediate effect.

Great efforts have been made by several people to ensure the team could continue racing until the end of the season but sadly this has not proved possible.

BSPA Chairman Alex Harkess said: "I'm gutted about this outcome, but sadly there is no alternative.

"When I met with the loyal group of Birmingham supporters last week I believed there was genuine hope, but sadly things have changed .

"As an association, we have done everything possible to try and ensure the continuation of speedway but with no promoter willing to take the club forward I'm afraid the club is now closed for business."

Runners pull in the prizes in weekend races

Running

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running club found themselves picking up the prizes again this weekend, with events on Saturday and Sunday it was a successful 24 hours for the blue hoops.

On Saturday DK fielded four teams in the Wrekin Relay Challenge, a new event where teams of three can tackle a tough 3.8 mile circuit with prizes to the team with the quickest aggregate time.

The men's A team claimed second place, with Daren Thompson going off first in 30.31, Ben Foster, on the second leg, ran 24.48 and Matt Biggs ran 26.30 on the glory leg. The B team of Graham Wildgoose, Richard Bate and Pete Hood claimed third place with times of 30.53, 28.04 and 31.14 respectively.

The ladies team of Julie Allen in 38.42, Sally McConville in 40.17 and Sandra Brain in 34.55 were fourth and a mixed team of Rob Sannwald in 28.37, Helen Tromans in 33.13 and Carol Fisher in 35.56 were fifth in their category.

Later on Saturday a couple of DK runners tackled the tough Timberhonger 10k, a very testing road race in Bromsgrove with a vicious climb in the last mile to test the stamina of even the fittest of athletes.

Gary Bonner claimed 49th place in 43.03 to take the first MV50 prize and Dave Hickman stopped the clock in 47.55 for 117th place.

On Sunday a huge contingent tackled the Wyre Forest Half Marathon, again hills being the theme with a nasty climb up to the finish, turning the runners' legs to jelly.

Paul Richards was first back for the club in 17th place in 1.36.34, John Andrews was 120th in 1.56.34, Carol Fisher in her second race in two days claimed first in her age group in 132nd overall in 1.58.57.

Helen Hickman was third in her age group in 2.00.27 in 142nd, Marie Latreche finished in 2.01.17 in 147th to claim second in her age group.

Karen Doy was 186th in 2.08, Jo Clare was 193rd in 2.10.33, Liz Hettle finished in 2.17.39 for 212nd, Sally McConville, another runner doing back to back races, was 231st in 2.17.51 and Debbie Richard was 230th in 2.27.44.

SECOND WIN IN BAG FOR WOLVES

Shamrock Rovers 1 Wolves 4

WOLVES continued preparations for life in the Championship with a routine 4-1 win over the fringe players and trialists of Shamrock Rovers.

The goals came from Leon Clarke – his second in as many friendlies – Liam McAlinden and Nouha Dicko.

Football

Bakary Sako made it two successive penalties for the fourth goal, which was the same number of times fans' old favourite 'The Liquidator' was played.

And with head coach Kenny Jackett again opting to play first choice and second choice XIs in each half, it was intriguing to see new signing Rajiv Van La Parra catch the eye for the 'reserves'.

While the youthful 'shadow' visitors' defence is in its infancy, the flying Dutchman impressed as he used his pace to continually drive at the home back line in the first 45 minutes.

Comfortable

But Wolves had to come from behind to secure an ultimately comfortable second successive friendly win.

The home side settled quickest, impressive striker Ciaran Kilduff seeing a shot blocked by Kortney Hause.

From the resulting flag kick, Rovers took a ninth-minute lead when McCarey dropped former Leeds and Cardiff midfielder Stephen McPhail's set-piece and Kirk Millar tapped home.

Wolves, with debutant Van La Parra a driving force, gradually got themselves back into the game. Leon Clarke levelled in the 24th minute following a lovely move. Doherty started it with a ball that split the defence for Liam McAlinden, who exchanged passes with Clarke to put him through before the latter buried a low effort to Hyland's left.

Four minutes later, Wolves went ahead, albeit in fortunate circumstances. There seemed no danger when Hyland collected a backpass, but he mis-controlled it and McAlinden was onto it in a flash to tap into the empty net from 15 yards.

Dave Edwards skied over and Kevin McDonald saw a first-time snapshot tipped wide by sub keeper Conor O'Malley before Wolves made it 3-1 in the 70th minute.

Again it was a well-worked goal, Danny Batth charging upfield before finding Michael Jacobs and the midfielder spotted the run of Edwards on the left for a cross stabbed in off the post by Dicko. Wolves made it 4-1 when Sako drove home from the spot .

Glover back in the groove for title shot

The 'Tipton Slasher' Lee Glover takes down Andy Harris during the battle at Walsall Town Hall.
Picture Rob Ellis UKO Boxing

TIPTON'S Lee Glover got back into the title groove aware that he's in line for a shot at becoming the best super featherweight in Britain by the end of the year, *writes Craig Birch*.

The 27-year-old has been told he's first choice as mandatory challenger to British and Commonwealth champion Josh Warrington, a bout likely to happen in the winter.

Glover has already a bash at the English crown, pushing Jon Kays close before a narrow points defeat in March, which was only his second bout in two years.

He returned to action at Walsall Town Hall, some three years after he lifted the International Masters featherweight belt in his sixth pro fight at the same venue.

The British version of the strap was on the line this time up at super feather with Glover stepping up to the plate, slicing open and dropping Andy Harris to force the finish.

'The Tipton Slasher' proved true to his moniker as he bloodied his co-challenger, to force the finish in the sixth round of a scheduled 10.

Harris had no answer to the left hook of Glover as he was crumpled to the mat in the fourth from a hook, a signal the end was coming.

It was the fitting end to a knock-out night.

Dicko is relishing pressure

NOUHA DICKO says he can take the pressure of being Wolves' chief marksman in the Championship.

The powerful Frenchman got off the mark for pre-season in Monday night's 4-1 friendly win at Shamrock Rovers.

All three senior Wolves strikers scored in the same game for the first time with Liam McAlinden and Leon Clarke also on target.

Head coach Kenny Jackett is desperate to add some more firepower with Leicester's Chris Wood believed to be at the head of the queue once the Foxes get their targets.

But 22-year-old Dicko, who scored 13 goals in 19 games for Wolves last season, reckons he can withstand the goalscoring burden at the higher level.

"When you get expectations on you it's because you've done well," said the former Wigan forward.

"Every striker likes to have this pressure because it's a good pressure wanting you to do well and score goals again.

"I'm really looking forward to it and am relishing the pressure of trying to score some goals."

Sneekes earns first Pics win

Bilston Town 1
Rushall Olympic 4

RICHARD SNEEKES' first game in charge of Rushall Olympic ended with a win.

Mikey Nelson put the home side ahead .

Ryan Winwood pulled the Pics level and Carl Palmer, Stan Mugisha and Odane Barnes completed the turnaround.

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For more information see page 12